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NOVEMBER, 1964 ... r-YOUth Resources

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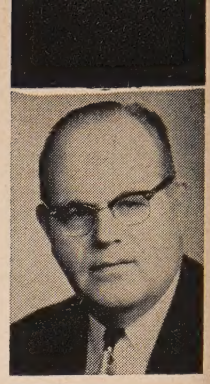
NEW YORK STATE ENDEAVORERS STUDY "GOD AND NATURE"

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SHAWS

BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY



Harold E. Westerhoff

Maude Chamberlain Shaw, widow of the late William Shaw, general secretary and treasurer of the World's Union, died August 29. She was 90 years old. As secretary to Dr. Francis E. Clark, founder and president of the World's Union, and as the wife of William Shaw, she was identified with Christian Endeavor for more than half a century. Dr. Daniel A. Poling and M. Elizabeth Wells represented Christian Endeavor at the funeral service August 31.

What you have just read reads like a superficial news item. But it represents the close of a long chapter in Christian Endeavor history. William Shaw and Maude Chamberlain Shaw were known as the Christian Endeavor Shaws. Their service to Christian Endeavor spanned much of the long history of Christian Endeavor.

William Shaw was first introduced to Christian Endeavor in 1883. He was still an ardent Christian Endeavorer when he died in 1942. Maude Chamberlain's first assignment with Christian Endeavor, according to Dr. Daniel A. Poling, was as secretary to Amos R. Wells, prolific writer and editor of THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD. M. Elizabeth Wells, now a trustee of the International Society of Christian Endeavor, and surviving daughter of the great Amos R. Wells of Christian Endeavor fame, tells that Maude Chamberlain was the best secretary Dr. Wells ever had.

In 1906, when William Shaw became general secretary of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, the earlier name for the International Society, in accepting the position, he wrote:

"I believe in Christian Endeavor. Not in one particular method, not in one unchanging form of words, but in the idea that **** has been seeking expression through methods and words.

"Christian Endeavor was born, not made. It has in it possibilities of growth and expansion. Its words and methods are the garments with which it clothes itself. They become too small with the passing of the years. They wear out, and must be renewed. It costs time, pains, and money; but it is worthwhile.

"Knowing its past, and familiar with its present, I have a vision of a future for Christian Endeavor worthy of both, and big with blessing for the church and the young people of the world.

"My purpose is expressed in the first clause of our covenant pledge, which has had so commanding an influence in the moulding of my life: 'Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would like to have me do'."

Maude Chamberlain Shaw was a constant companion of William Shaw beginning with their marriage in 1914. She traveled with him. She worked with him in the myriad Christian Endeavor responsibilities to which he was attracted and which inevitably fell to him. Except for the presidency of the larger movement, William Shaw has perhaps occupied more Christian Endeavor positions than any other man. And in all of them he had the unswerving loyalty, the constant devotion, and the ever present help of Maude Chamberlain Shaw.

William Shaw and Maude Chamberlain Shaw have had an interest in Christian Endeavor that extends far beyond their earthly lives. Maude Chamberlain Shaw included a bequest of $1,000 in her Will, to be paid directly to the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

William Shaw, on his death in 1942, left a modest estate in which his wife had a life interest. On her death it was his direction that the trust should be distributed. Through prudent and wise investment and reinvestment of the trust it assumed much larger proportions than he had probably ever visualized. Thus, when the distribution of the trust is completed, it appears that out of the estate of William Shaw the World's Christian Endeavor Union will receive approximately $90,000 for its work. They gave all they could of their talent and time and substance during their lifetimes. They gave substantially to insure the continuing ministry of Christian Endeavor even after their deaths.

Christian Endeavor, in the providence of God, has been great because some of God's great people, like William and Maude Shaw, were in it.

November and December Dates

November

6-8—Missouri Convention, St. Louis

Contact: Harold Williams, 5942 Vivian Avenue, St. Louis 63147

December

3-6—Executives' Program Council, Columbus, Ohio

Contact: International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216

Pray for these Christian Endeavor events!

Are you ready for Christian Endeavor Week January 31-February 7, 1965?

COVER CLUES

Junior and Junior High youth studying "God and Nature" during New York State's Summer Assembly at Pocono Plateau, Pennsylvania, examine rocks formed millions of years ago. The instructor reminded them "in the beginning . . . God."

Photo by C. Manley DeBevoise

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR World

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"BIG ISLAND" youth (left) and adults and leaders met in a workshop at Hilo. Standing in photo at right are Kai Wah Lee (left) and Gabriel Pea (right).

Visiting the Outer Islands

By Frances M. Becker, International Society Vice-President

Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, and Molokai are just names of four beautiful Hawaiian Islands to ordinary tourists, but to the Christian Endeavor Tour Party, which visited these islands in connection with the 4th Pacific Area Conference in Honolulu, they mean much more. They mean people, Hawaiian Christian Endeavorers, with whom we worshipped, fellowshipped, worked, learned, prayed, ate, and had fun.

To share with anyone who reads this article the entire wonderful experience is impossible. You must experience it yourself. So let us just picture a bit of our stay on these islands so that you might capture some of the magnetic flavor of Hawaiian Christian Endeavor hospitality.

As we flew from the island of Oahu, thrilled by the graciousness of the Honolulu Endeavorers, we were not prepared for a constant repetition of this graciousness on the outer islands.

But first there was Maui where we were welcomed by the Tri-Isle president, Mrs. Ida H. Plunkett, and the Maui president, Leilani Lum Ho, and the entire Lum Ho family. Can you picture a picnic with delicious food on a lovely Hawaiian beach with the blue-green ocean gently rolling in? Then as the sun slowly sank into the ocean and spread its beautiful orange and pink afterglow across the sky and through the palm trees, we sang to the accompaniment of a ukelele Hawaiian songs and hymns of the church, closing with a friendship circle underneath a canopy of black sky and a million stars. Truly, "in Christ there is no East or West."

The following day brought with it a session for exchanging ideas and a wonderful dinner and conference echo meeting with many churches participating in the Kaahumanu Church, where Mrs. Moses Moku is pastor.

TIMOTHY WAIAMAU (left), organist for the Kalaupapa society, relaxes with Bishop Meadows and Mr. Westerhoff following the service at Kanaana Hou Church (bottom photo).

"Big Island" Welcome

With a sad but fond farewell we left Maui, to be greeted at the Hilo airport by a number of Christian Endeavorers with a big sign saying "Welcome, Christian Endeavorers." Kai Wah Lee, Hawaii Island president, welcomed us as did Gabriel Pea, Hawaiian Christian Endeavor trustee, who had just come from supervising the placing of a pig in the imu for our luau that evening.

Suppertime found us in our gay muu muus and aloha shirts, sitting around colorfully decorated tables at the Haili Church where Rev. Melvin Steinbron welcomed us. Here we dined on roast pig, poi, lomi lomi salmon, taro tops and chicken, coconut pudding, and coconut cake. The Hilo Kalimas then presented a wonderful Hawaiian program of song, instrumental music, and the hula. We can't forget that evening, either.

The following night we were again at the Haili Church, this time for a Christian Endeavor Workshop. Arch McQuilkin directed the Hawaiian leaders and adults, Frances Becker taught about forty young people, and the tour party learned how to speak and sing in Hawaiian.

How short the time seemed for these thrilling experiences, for the next morning found us driving across the lava beds and wide open ranges of the Big Island toward the Kona Coast. At lunch time we paused for a delicious meal and a Christian Endeavor meeting at Imiola Congregational Church, high in the hills of Hawaii. Rev. Willard G. Thomen with his family and congregation made us feel that we couldn't leave so soon, but on we went toward the site of the oldest church in the Hawaiian Islands.

Sunday found us worshipping in the lovely old Mokuaikaua Church. After the service we were surprised by a tasty luncheon of salads, sandwiches, and

(Continued on page 5)

A HAWAIIAN GREETING in song by Maui Endeavorers (top photo) was led by Mrs. Ida Plunkett, president (right). This quartet from Waialua Church (lower photo) sang during the workshop at Kaahumanu Church.

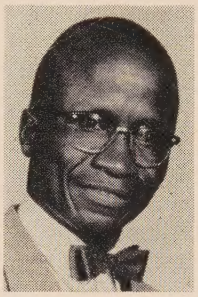
NEWS AND VIEWS

Photo by Rev. Christian A. Tirre

YOUTH CAMP King and Queen were crowned by Missouri Endeavorers at the St. Louis Summer Conference August 31-September 7 at Camp Derricotte, Cuivre River State Park. Retiring "royalty" (right) receive the newly-elected youth. A Senior King and Queen were also elected during the sessions.

● PRAYER REMINDERS and registration blanks for Dallas 1965 are available from the International Society in Columbus. The 48th International Christian Endeavor Convention will be held in the air-conditioned Statler Hilton Hotel in downtown Dallas July 6-10, 1965. Under an economical "package plan" delegates secure room and meals for just $38. Write for complete information.

● NOVEMBER 22-28 is 1964 Know Your America Week. This annual event is sponsored by the All-American Conference to Combat Communism and 50 affiliated organizations, including the International Society of Christian Endeavor. Write to Headquarters in Columbus for a booklet giving complete details for this community-wide observance.



HEADING GOLDEN RULE Union, Washington, D. C., is Paul Leonard. Employed at the D.C. Public Library, he has served in the Army. He is a member of the senior choir and the men's chorus and teaches a Bible class at Union Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church. He was born in Marion, South Carolina, on George Washington's birthday.

VIRGINIA'S PRESIDENT for 1964-65 is Joann Campbell of Roanoke. Visitors at Westinghouse Electric Supply are greeted by Miss Campbell, who is receptionist-clerk typist there. A past president of both Roanoke and Blue Ridge District Unions, she is Junior High counselor of Piney Grove Christian Church.

● "A MAGICIAN GOES TO CHURCH," just off the press, is a guide to Gospel magic written by Rev. James J. Dracup, field secretary of the New Jersey Christian Endeavor Union. Copies of this book may be secured from Mr. Dracup. Contact him at his home, 32 Dolphin Road, Levittown, Pennsylvania 19056.

● WANT TO TOUR "south of the border"? In connection with the Dallas Convention there will be an International Fellowship Tour of Mexico and Guatemala. Harold E. Westerhoff, tour director for the International Society, will be happy to send complete details to anyone who is interested.

IT WAS A BUSY WEEKEND September 18-20 when the International Society president and Staff visited Dallas, Texas. Events included a luncheon for civic leaders and Dallas Convention Committee members (near right) at which J. C. Estes, general chairman, presided. Guests of honor (far right) included (seated) Dr. Luther Holcomb, executive secretary of the Greater Dallas Council of Churches, and Mrs. Tracy Rutherford, city Council member; (standing) Frank North (left), Dallas Chamber of Commerce, and George L. Lumpkin, deputy chief of police. A full meeting of the convention committee (lower left) was held Saturday afternoon. Members of the Staff participated in a Dallas District officers' workshop Sunday afternoon (lower right). Larry Hanby, district president, presided.

January-February 1965—Opportunity Months!

January and February—Outdoor Posters on Display

This program of evangelism makes possible the colorful Christian Endeavor posters along streets and highways of the United States and Canada. Each state or provincial union names a chairman to guide the program. Local poster companies, members of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America, Inc., donate labor and space for posting. Individuals, societies, churches, and local unions contribute the cost of the posters, $5 each. Deadline for orders is November 15.

January 31 - February 7—Christian Endeavor Week

"My All for Christ" is the theme for the 84th birthday observance. A real help in planning is the 1965 Christian Endeavor Week Packet, now available. Cost is 50c, with special quantity rates available. The Packet includes a basic manual, radio and television scripts, party plans, and many other helpful items.

February 15, 1965—Deadline for Citizenship Entries

Significant awards await the winning young people and Christian Endeavor societies in the 1965 Citizenship Awards Program. Individuals will be honored for articles, editorials, talks, posters, black and white photographs, or cartoons; groups will enter Christian citizenship activities. All entries must implement the folder *What Is Christian Citizenship?* and provide a Christian witness to the community.

Write to the International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216, for complete details.

Visiting the Outer Islands

(Continued from Page 3)

cakes. In the evening we shared in a lovely Hawaiian Ohana (family devotional service) which the Mokuaikaua Choir presents each Sunday evening as a Christian testimony to the guests at Kona Inn.

At the airport in Kauai there was again a wonderful reception, this time organized by Samuel Kaauwai and members of the Kapaa First Hawaiian Church. After busy, exciting days of surf bathing in the blue-green Pacific, visiting Waiamea Canyon—the "Grand Canyon of the Pacific," catching carp in the lagoon at Coco Palms, and sailing up the charming Waialua River toward the Fern Grotto, we ended our Kauai visit with a service at the Kapaa Church. Here we shared with Rev. Gilbert Williams, president of Kauai Island Christian Endeavor. Again delicious snacks were served.

Perhaps the most unusual and thrilling visit of all was our day's trip to the island of Molokai. As we flew down a steep cliff from the topside of Molokai, in a small plane holding only six passengers, we were met on the peninsula of Kalaupapa by the Christian Endeavor members of the Hansen's Disease Colony. In spite of physical handicaps these radiant Christians made our visit a memorable one. They presented leis they had strung for us, drove us around the settlement in their cars, acted as guides, played the organ and the piano for a songfest, and joined us in a wonderful Christian Endeavor meeting at which Clyde Meadows brought the message.

Truly the Hawaiian Islands are beautiful, but more beautiful are the friendships we claim because of Christian Endeavor in Hawaii.

GOD'S WORD FOR A NEW AGE

Thanksgiving to Christmas Readings

Join with others throughout the world in this annual program sponsored by the American Bible Society.

NOVEMBER	
26 Thanksgiving	Psalm 1
27	Psalm 100:1-5
28	Psalm 103
29 1st Advent Sunday	Hebrews 11:1-39
30	Psalm 19:1-14
DECEMBER	
1	James 1:19-27
2	James 2:14-23
3	I Peter 1:13-25
4	Isaiah 6:1-10
5	Isaiah 11:1-9
6 2nd Advent Sunday beginning Universal Bible Week	Isaiah 40:1-11
7	Isaiah 40:12-31
8	Isaiah 52:7-15
9	Isaiah 53:1-12
10	John 1:1-18
11	John 15:1-11
12	John 15:18-27
13 3rd Advent Sunday	I John 1:1-2:6
14	I John 3:1-10
15	I John 3:11-24
16	I John 4:7-21
17	Ephesians 3:1-21
18	Ephesians 4:1-32
19	I Corinthians 13:1-13
20 4th Advent Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25
WORLDWIDE READING of the CHRISTMAS STORY	
21	Luke 1:5-25
22	Luke 1:26-38
23	Luke 1:39-80
24	Luke 2:1-20
25 Christmas	Matthew 2:1-12

For the last six days of the year, these passages are recommended.

26	Luke 2:21-38
27 Sunday	Luke 2:39-52
28	Matthew 5:1-16
29	Matthew 6:1-15
30	Matthew 7:1-29
31	Ephesians 5:10-20

Will you make Bible reading a daily practice? This is a part of Christian Endeavor's Quiet Hour observance. Write for "Daily Bible Reading 1965" (U155) from the American Bible Society, 450 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

LOOKING AHEAD—A challenge from Conrad K. Clippinger II, 1964 Endeavorer of the Year

The coming days and weeks offer countless opportunities to the Christian young person. First on the slate is the building of a better and more influential Christian Endeavor society. This is not such a difficult task. Perhaps the following objectives will stimulate some ideas and thought in your society:

A. **Organize all committees** (these must function properly even if an imperative "push" has to come from the president).

B. **Officers must fulfill duties** (it may be said that a society is only as successful as its executive committee).

C. **Variety in the society meeting is a must** (environment and program).

D. **Instead of criticizing your society, help to correct its weaknesses.**

A final objective I consider important enough to mention separately: we must strive to gain new members. There is no excuse for not increasing membership a minimum of an additional 15% this year.

Let's get moving! Let's accept a truly worthwhile challenge. Remember . . . there is no limit to what we can accomplish, for we are dealing with the furthering of the Christian influence and nothing can stop the determined Christian young person in his fulfillment of a task for the Lord.

I shall do my best, and I trust that you will also do your best. And if our efforts are true ones, we shall have placed another pillar in the building of the Kingdom.

Varieties of Topic Presentation

by Charles C. Meek, President, Texas Christian Endeavor Union

Have you ever visited a society meeting with this format: songs, prayer, Scripture, announcements, leader's talk, three talks on the subject, leader's conclusion, and benediction? This routine can result in some informative and valuable sessions. A group of intellectually mature and mentally disciplined Christians could increase their knowledge and understanding of religious topics greatly by following this procedure for years on end. But your society is probably not made up of such members. As your members reach maturity, they move on to other areas of service, and their places are taken by younger people whose interest must be aroused and who must be helped to grow in their spiritual awareness. It takes a variety of program presentations to capture and hold the interest of young people, and a variety of means of presentation can increase the effectiveness of your programs.

How about Your Programs?

Variety can take many forms. Examine the hymns being used. Could it be that you are in a rut and choose from the same dozen songs month after month, ignoring the wealth of great songs of the faith? And must the Scripture always be read by one individual? Try it responsively with a leader, or antiphonally by those on one side of the aisle and then those on the other; or work it up as a choral reading, or present it as special music or on a recording. Handel's setting of *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth* gives an intensity of emotion which the spoken word can rarely achieve. A variety of meeting place can add to the meaning of your program. Surely a topic on the Psalms could be ten times more effective under the stars. A resurrection program at the margin of a body of water, even if it is only a park pond, can call to mind Galilee most tellingly.

Are you making use of a variety of audio-visual aids? Fine films are available, not as a substitute for a planned program, but as a means of presenting the topic for group discussion. The filmstrip with recorded commentary is available to introduce every topic from boy-girl relationships to the Dead Sea scrolls. The tape recorder can be used to provide a vast variety of programming helps.

How about You?

But in the end it is what YOU do in your meeting room that has the greatest effect on your society and on your own growth as a Christian leader. It is the leader, on his feet before the society, who is the key to the program. So how are you varying your approach? NOVELTY DEVICES adapted from the entertainment media are easily handled. The popular panel, "mystery guest," question-and-answer approach generates interest. Be certain that quiz and novelty programs are serving a valid purpose; they easily become mere amusement rather than religious training.

A method to encourage discussion participation by all those present is the use of BUZZ GROUPS. This is a useful device when the topic involves personal opinions and evaluations of problems, rather than facts and background material requiring research and coordination. The society is devided into small groups of five or six members. These groups go into huddles in separate parts of the room to consider a set of problems or questions presented to them. Each group chooses a chairman to direct its discussion and a secretary, who records the conclusions reached by the group. If there is any likelihood of wasting discussion time in the selection of leaders, use some device such as having the member with the fewest letters in his name to be chairman and the one with the most letters to be secretary. Place a strict time limit of five to ten minutes on the buzz period, depending on the number of questions or problems to be considered.

At the expiration of the assigned time, the society reassembles and the secretary of each buzz group reports its conclusion about each problem or question assigned to it. These reports will provoke questions and further discussion from the floor, and the reporting group must be prepared to defend its reasoning if its report is greatly different from the opinions of the other members. When all groups have been assigned the same problem or group of problems, the secretaries or chairmen can report by means of a panel, each member presenting additional points coming from his group, in a discussion moderated by the program leader. Points should be listed on the chalkboard as they are presented.

Discussion topics which require advance preparation of facts and background can be presented effectively with a PANEL and a moderator. Each panel member is supplied with some background material for his use and given a list of the questions to be asked of the panel. Each member prepares in advance a presentation of related facts and his ideas on the problem to be discussed. At the meeting each panel member has an opportunity to speak on each problem. The moderator guides their discussion and summarizes their findings and states their conclusion, or summarizes the progress they have made and states the unsolved issues. Using your minister or some other adult whose knowledge and experience of the topic problem is wide can lend a depth to the discussion which it might not otherwise have, and may result in a clearer understanding by the audience.

A useful method of presenting a problem in a way which will stimulate fruitful discussion is ROLE PLAYING. This is the presentation by several members of the society of a skit illustrating a life situation in such a way that the audience can recognize and be helped to understand the problem involved in the incident. Select a situation which will illustrate the problem in human relations about which you want to stimulate thought and discussion —*for example, for a topic on family responsibility: a teen-ager has used the family car without permission and has badly damaged it in a collision. He is breaking the news to his family.* Choose characters with whom your role players can identify themselves. Instruct each player in something of the background of the person he is playing and the situation which prevails at the opening of the scene. You may want to set the outcome of the situation, or you may let it develop as the players react to each other, cutting off the scene when it reaches its natural conclusion or when the idea has become clear and the audience is ready for discussion. When the players must understand inner motivations for their roles, you may need a "warm-up" interview with each before the presentation, in which you ask him leading questions (what is your educational background, age, attitude concerning racial prejudice, etc.) to establish in his mind the nature of the personality he is assuming.

The weekly topic developments in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD frequently contain ideas for each of the methods of presentation discussed on this page and instructions for planning them. But some devotional committees and individual leaders are like the farmer who told the visiting agricultural expert, "It ain't no use to talk to me about crop rotation and newfangled machinery, because I ain't farming half as well as I know how already!" And there are Sunday evening meetings that are not presented "half as well" as the leader knows, or could learn, how. Preparation of a challenging, different program takes prayer, thought, time, and work. So put all that know-how into action and watch the interest and impact of your programs increase week by week!

Topics FOR JUNIOR HIGHS

Topic 2 in a Unit: How to Study the Bible

I John 4:7-12,19

The New Testament--God's Love

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Call to Worship: John 8:12; 1:9
Hymn: *O Worship the King*
Scripture Reading: No. 19 in *Christian Endeavor Songs* (I John 4:7-21)
Prayer in Unison: the Lord's Prayer
Hymn: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*
Offertory Sentence: I John 3:17
Hymn: *How Firm a Foundation*
Leader's Talk
Talks by Junior Highs
Group Discussion
A Personal Dedication: Hebrews 12:1,2
A Benediction Thought: I John 4:7,12,16

Points for Promotion

The bulletin board might carry accounts—written in newspaper style—of Biblical characters in the New Testament who responded to the love of Jesus, such as Zacchaeus, Matthew the tax collector, etc. Interesting posters attract attention and lead to further Bible study. Some Junior Highs might draw a picture to illustrate or interpret a New Testament passage about Christian love.

For the Leader

May your purpose be (1) to help others to grow more aware of the immeasurable love of God, reaching toward us in many expressions as we live, and supremely in Jesus Christ; (2) to help others to seek guidance from God's Word for expressions of good will and harmony; and (3) to make this meeting to affirm with strong conviction that belief in the way of love can be lived and to result in dedication to that task.

Select passages on love from the New Testament to inspire and challenge Junior Highs. They may be read by several members with their comments. The Bible is old, but fresh for our lives today. Select passages in advance such as John 15:1-11; 15:12-17; I Corinthians 12:1-12; and I Corinthians 13.

Suggestive Program Pointers

1. When a reporter covers an important event or interviews a distinguished person, he wants to know the answers to several questions: Who? Why? What? When? Where? and How? If a reporter can give adequate coverage to these questions, he is able to help his readers to have a good understanding of what he is reporting. In the same way, seek answers to similar questions about Bible characters to whom Jesus showed His love such as the woman at the well, blind Bartimaeus, Zacchaeus, Mary Magdalene, and others. Refer to some New Testament account of God's love for background information.

2. Interview society members and report their testimonies or accounts in booklet form to your meeting on the question *What does God's love mean to me?*

3. The Missionary Committee may give these booklets and accounts to children's homes, jails, or shut-ins at the Christmas season. Small stamps of Bibles or little lamps or torches might decorate the covers.

4. Present a "I Have a Secret" program in which the participants are dressed in Bible costumes. The person having the "secret" may be some Bible character to whom Jesus showed His love.

5. Select Bible passages for memorization and arrange these passages for a verse-speaking youth choir. Examine different translations of the Bible for simple and effective wording. If you are making a collection of significant Bible passages, consider Luke 4:16-21, Matthew 5, Luke 15, I Corinthians 13, and Luke 6:27-36.

Leader's Talk

As New Testament times approached, the rabbis thought of the Law as the interpretations that had been placed upon the Old Testament Scriptures. These minute regulations became a severe burden to the people. In those times the priests forgot the real laws of God which demand justice and mercy and love, and defended their rituals as law.

Keeping the Law was exacting and burdensome. Jesus came to "fulfill the Law." He wanted men to be captured by the spirit of the Law. Loving obedience knows no limits such as those set by law. Love is unbounded faithfulness. When the heart loves, righteousness has no bounds. When did love ever feel it has done its part?

When a man compels another to go with him one mile, the latter, in faithfulness, will go with him two miles. When the law sets bounds to forgiveness and says perhaps seven times is adequate, the loving heart answers, "seventy times seven." Love gives and asks no return as a condition for giving. This is the nature of the New Testament. It is patterned after the heart of God.

Approaching the Discussion

A fruitful Bible study demands that each one relate a passage to himself and ask, "What does this passage say to me today? With this passage what does God want of me today? What does it make me see within myself that God wants changed? As God's will and plan of salvation what does it let me see about my need, my task and my life?" Each Junior High's life is a time for decision. The important thing is to let God speak and let His speaking settle the matter.

A guiding principle for Bible study is to get hold of that testimony that "impels toward Christ," that makes Christ the goal of one's activity. This is Luther's well-known principle. To "impel toward Christ" is to direct one's eye toward that which can impel to Christ, see one's sin, see God's demand, and look forward to God's love in Christ.

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Talks by Junior Highs

A Backward Glance

To the Christian, the Old Testament has a quality of incompleteness. How is the Old Testament incomplete? What is the difference between the Testaments? The difference is Christ.

The chief question raised by the Bible is: How can God bring sinful man into a relationship of love? Neither rebellion nor good conduct will satisfy the hungers of love. These attitudes are found in the parables of Luke 15 and the teachings of Romans 1-3. The rebellious younger son in the parable threw himself on the love of his father without reservation, just as we may rely on God, our Father.

Too often we have neglected the Old Testament and interpreted the New Testament in terms of our personal thoughts. "In the fulness of time" God sent to us Jesus the Christ (Galatians 4:4). We emphasize "the Christ" because it is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word Messiah which means the "anointed one." He is the God-appointed Saviour to free man from the bondage of sin and death.

That which the Old Testament began was completed in the New Testament. All the history of the Old Testament was preparation for the coming of Christ. The line of salvation in the New Testament runs through even the Old Testament.

How can I fulfill God's demands? The Old Testament does not give the answer. It pushes the whole question into the future as a dream. The New Testament gives the answer. It is revealed through God's giving Himself in Christ. The answer is love. The Gospel is this: that God has acted decisively for us in Christ. In Christ God's love is made real to us, and in such a way that it at the same time judges us and restores us to Him.

God came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ, to reveal Himself to man and to redeem. He died for sinners who did not deserve it. God took upon Himself our own unworthiness and need. God revealed Himself as loving us in spite of our unworthiness.

God is not mocked. He cannot be unfaithful to Himself. His purpose is redemptive. Only love redeems. This is the message of the Bible. While we were helpless Christ died for us (Romans 5:6).

The Miracle of God's Love

If man is to be won to a loving, faithful response, it must be done by showing him a love so complete and full that he cannot resist it. So God dwelt in the man Jesus. God taught, healed, loved, forgave, and showed mercy through the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. God loved to the end, even the cross. Jesus died in order to give to us the fullness of God's love. What a miracle!

Such love is unbelievable. It cannot be resisted. We can face life with confidence and hope, knowing that God's victorious love is in our hearts and at the heart of our universe. He works a miracle in our hearts, and we are able to love because He loves us so deeply.

God's Love Is Good News!

The Old Testament presents only shades of the love of God. The New Testament gives precision to the meaning of the love of God in the event of Jesus Christ. God not only has loved in the past or merely loves in the present, but He *is* love (I John 4:8). God's love can be known only in Christ. God sent His Son to us that this might be accomplished.

The love of the Father for the Son and of the Son for the Father is a love based on perfect harmony between what God wills and what Jesus does. God's love shows mercy and pardon, and Jesus manifested it in His relationships with men.

Jesus inaugurated the Lord's Supper with a "new commandment" — love. Love in the New Testament is the love between God and man. It includes God's concern for us (John 3:16) and the blessings prepared by God for us (I Corinthians 2:9). It is the very nature of God (I John 4:8). Jesus revealed this love in His daily life and attitudes. Never has one loved like Jesus loved.

Paul painted the portrait of perfect love in his immortal hymn to love in I Corinthians 13. Jesus manifested love in this manner, for His love never failed in any situation of temptation, disappointment, betrayal, or even death. No obstacles could stop it. It knew nothing of despair.

Jesus was ready to receive not just those who showed their "worthiness," but all who needed and desired His help. "He laid His hands on every one of them, and healed them" (Luke 4:40). Mary Magdalene was identified as one from whom seven demons had gone out. She had been completely and absolutely under the control of demon powers. She met Jesus, however, and He restored her to her former gentle, loving disposition. She became one of the most attractive characters in the Bible *(read Luke 8:1-3; John 19:25; Mark 15:40-47; Luke 23:55, 56; John 20:1-18).*

There were other examples of Jesus' love. Matthew belonged to the hated class of tax-gatherers or publicans. He was looked upon as a traitor because he worked for Rome. Jesus passed by, saying, "Levi, follow me," and the call of the Master was decisive. He left all and followed Jesus (Luke 5:27-32).

Peter made the great confession of Jesus (Matthew 16:13-16). But in the darkest hour of Peter's life, he became a deserter and coward as he forsook Jesus. Daybreak was pressing back the night when the disciples came from their fishing boats after Jesus' resurrection. They gathered around their risen Lord and the small fire on the sand, but Peter kept back in the shadows. He was stung by the shame of his failure and shaken by doubts of his usefulness to the Lord. But Jesus came to him with a searching question, "Do you love me?" (John 21:15-19). Peter answered, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you!"

We can love God through our knowledge of Jesus Christ. Jesus' understanding and love went out to the poor, depressed, and the underprivileged. "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36). "I did not come to judge the world but to save the world" (John 12:47). "The Son of man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). *(Quotations are from the Revised Standard Version.)*

We observe the outgoing quest of Jesus for the despised and the sinful. The outcasts who drew close to Jesus to hear His message felt not only His love and care, but they also heard a message about God which must have shocked them. The shepherd cares most for "the one that has strayed," according to Jesus. It was not the Father's will that a single one of His little ones should be lost (Matthew 18:12-14). Jesus talked with the despised Zacchaeus and the sinful woman at the well. He loves us also in spite of our sins and our failures. The greatest thing in the world is God's love revealed in Jesus.

Daily Bible Readings

M.	Nov. 30	God's Love	John 3:14-18
T.	Dec. 1	Love Meets a Need	John 5:1-9
W.	Dec. 2	Love Reaches All	John 8:1-11
T.	Dec. 3	Love Comforts	John 14:1-4
F.	Dec. 4	A More Excellent Way	I Corinthians 13
S.	Dec. 5	An Excellent Name	Matthew 1:21-23
Sun.	**Dec. 6—Topic: The New Testament—God's Love**		**I John 4:7-12,19**

Comments by Rev. Edgar L. Mack, pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal churches in Newport and Erlanger, Kentucky, and a member of the Youth Work Committee

Topic 3 in a Unit: How to Study the Bible

"A Lamp unto My Feet"

Psalm 119:105-112

(Universal Bible Sunday)

Publicity and Promotion

Display posters advertising the date, time, and place of meeting. The picture might be that of a Bible with light coming from it and illuminating a path or feet. The picture could be just feet lighted, with the caption "From whence the light?" or "What lighteth your feet?" or "Is your path lighted?"

Suggest that the Lookout Committee contact recent absentees and promote attendance for this meeting.

If a Bible display is planned, announce it. More interest may be generated by asking members to strive to find at least one Bible in their home that could be used in the display.

Guide for Leader and/or Counselor

Remember that this is the last of a series of three topics. Build on the two which preceded. Some type of memorization should have been in operation. Make sure this is brought to a proper conclusion. This is an ideal time to secure enlistments for the Quiet Hour. Contact the International Society at 1221 East Broad Street in Columbus, Ohio in time to obtain a sufficient number of copies of the Quiet Hour Pledge. If possible, ask your pastor in advance to present this opportunity of pledge signing to the young people.

This is Universal Bible Sunday. Be sure to mention its significance.

The Enduring Word

Our Bible has come to us at great cost to many, many people over thousands of years. In some ages and in some countries the possession of a Bible was a crime sufficient to merit the sentence of death! Men have been burned at the stake for owning a Bible and have died on the gallows for reading one. In spite of all this, there are more Bibles in the world today than there are copies of any other book ever written. Even though the Bible was written upon perishable materials in ink which is likely to fade, and though every force of nature and time itself would conspire to destroy it, yet it has survived. It challenges every natural explanation.

Moses' works were written 3500 years ago, but his words are as modern and timely as tomorrow's newspaper.

The entire Bible was completed in its present form before the year 100 A.D. At the close of the Old Testament, five full centuries went by before any new writings were added. There are 39 books in the Old Testament, 27 books in the New Testament, a library of 66 altogether. Each individual book can stand as a classic in itself, however. There were about 44 writers, who wrote in four different languages and on 50 different subjects. These writers lived over a span of time of almost two thousand years.

It has wisely been said that "in the Old Testament the New is concealed; in the New Testament the Old is revealed." The Old Testament represents prophecy, the New Testament fulfillment. Every Old Testament book has its New Testament complement and fulfillment. Every New Testament book has its Old Testament commentary. Histories have been rewritten, and will perhaps continue to be, in order to bring them into conformity with the Word.

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Prelude by Pianist
Call to Worship: Psalm 27:1
Hymn: *He Lives*
Prayer by Leader
Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:105-112
Hymns: *Jesus Shall Reign, Let the Beauty of Jesus, Send the Light*
Announcements and Offering
Prayer: As the piano softly plays background music, the leader can suggest various prayer thoughts, such as the Bible, leaders of the country, missionaries, Christian Endeavor leaders around the world, the ill, bereaved, etc.
Special Music
Leader's Talk: Take 3-5 minutes to explain the purpose of the meeting. Prepare the young people for the remaining portions of the meeting.
Group Discussion
The Pastor's Five Minutes
Hymn: *Sunshine in the Soul*
Mizpah Benediction

The Bible has been the most potent influence ever exerted in human history. It has changed the flow of history, erected empires, cast down conquerors and kings, bringing blessing and success to those who obeyed its precepts, and death and oblivion to those who fought against it.

The Bible is not the story of mankind. Nor is the Jew the theme of the Bible. The theme is in one man—Jesus Christ. In the birth, life, ministry, miracles, trials, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ more than 300 Old Testament predictions were fulfilled.

The Bible is the source of great comfort. Harry Rimmer, who had as many as twenty-three funerals in one week, said "If you took my Bible away from me, I'd resign from the ministry before I faced another funeral." Even Jesus found comfort in the Psalms. Upon the cross, He recited portions from the Psalms. *(Look up Psalm 31:5, Psalm 22:1, Psalm 42:2, Psalm 63:1, and Psalm 143:6.)*

"Thy Word Is a Lamp"

The Bible has a strange and wonderful power to lead those of every race and condition into a living relationship with God the Father and Christ His Son. No matter what the problem may be or what the cause of depression is, regardless of the reason for sadness or discouragement, when the Bible is read with an open mind and an open heart, there is light for the path. In this Book there is the solution to every problem. God speaks directly to the individual.

His promise to be present always is like a light in the darkness. His parables have real meaning for today. There is no reason for doubt or darkness if one will accept Christ at His Word. All through the Bible, God is trying to shine through to us. When the prophets whom He sent

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were not enough, He came to us in His Son. A heavenly light comes to us when we discover that eternal life can begin here and now. When we commit ourselves and our problems to Him, our future path is lighted. In the Bible we come face to face with God.

Study the Word

Pray at least briefly before opening the Bible. God will help to give an understanding, but don't expect to understand *every* thing! Even Bible scholars have difficulty understanding every bit of it. Attempt to concentrate, closing all other things out of the mind. A story in fiction is not fully comprehended, when the mind is wandering.

Read large portions at a time. It will be amazing how interesting Bible stories are. Read a complete book in one sitting if possible. Try to determine the meaning of words and passages in view of the complete context. Accept the most simple and most natural interpretation. Make use of a Bible dictionary. Discuss what you have read with others. Perhaps our society could undertake a Bible reading system. Why not devote a portion of each Sunday's meeting to discussing what was read through the week? *(Discuss the use of the daily readings at the close of each topic development.)*

Heed the Word

Matthew 7:24 says, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock." *(Read the next few verses also.)*

God's Word was written for a purpose and has been preserved for a good reason. Why bother to read His commands, requests, and suggestions if we have no intention of applying them to our lives?

Peace is on the hearts, minds, or lips of most people today. The only true peace comes in striving to please God. The Ten Commandments are a good place to start. Then remember that Christ also commanded that we love one another (John 13:34) and that we do unto others as we would have them do unto us (Luke 6:31).

Share the Word

A heavy responsibility rests on the shoulders of Christians. When we have heard God's Word, we are to share it with others. He commanded that we go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all (Matthew 28:19). Your nation—your world—is where you are today. When one hears good news, he is eager to spread the word. Should less be done with the Good News of the Scriptures? It is a lamp unto our feet, and it can give the same light to another. Share the light you have. Don't hide it under a bushel. Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Let your light shine. Share the Word.

Some Suggestions for Committees

If the society has not already planned for the coming holidays, it is not too late.

THE DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE should plan extra special Christmas and New Year's meetings. Family attendance could be urged.

THE LOOKOUT COMMITTEE should be checking on absentees and looking up new members.

THE MISSIONARY COMMITTEE might well plan to do something special for the needy and neglected. Baskets of food for the needy, visiting the shut-in, etc. are possibilities.

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE should plan a Christmas caroling program in the community or at a hospital or nursing home. Serve hot refreshments afterward.

THE CHURCH ACTIVITY-COMMITTEE might decorate the inside or outside of the church buildings.

In all, strive not to commercialize the season.

An Illustration

The story is told of a man who, when traveling in the Near East, found himself lost in the depths of bewildering confusion. The strange, constant impact of the non-Christian peoples, the nomadic tribes, the troops, the questioning police, the crowds that continued to gather and stare in village after village, the barren mountains, the dusty plains, the tortuous roads, the dirty, rattling car—altogether the long, hot, tiresome journey "had him down."

About all in, he sought overnight rest in a mission school along the way. Tired in body, confused in mind, weak in spirit, he walked across the wind-swept compound to find a place of escape from it all. In one of the buildings he saw an open door. He went toward it as quickly as possible, not caring where it might lead. Stumbling inside, he found a darkened room. A bench was to the right. He slumped down on it and relaxed.

As his eyes became accustomed to the darkness, gradually it dawned upon him that he was in a rude little chapel, in a prayer room. Before him was a quiet altar. On it was a cross. He drew nearer. Then behind the cross he could see three panels. On one written in Persian, on another in Armenian, and on the other in English were the words "Christ, the Power of God."

And there in that holy place something happened to him. He was rested, at ease, renewed, strong again. He had set his eyes on Christ, who was a lamp unto his weary feet.

For Discussion

In order to encourage participation and to climax the whole idea of the meeting, the following plan might be followed. Give each one a candle. Explain that the lights will be put out. Only one candle, symbolizing Christ, will light the room. As each one participates in the discussion, he may light his candle from the central candle. When each one has done his part, the room will be quite well illuminated. At the conclusion of the questions, if some candles remain unlighted, suggest that testimonies, verses of Scripture, or thoughts from hymns might be given that others may let their lights shine.

1. How many books make up the Old Testament? the New Testament? the total Bible?

2. About how many writers made the Bible possible?

3. Name some Bible translations or versions.

4. What is the main theme of the Bible?

5. What are some of the sayings Jesus uttered on the cross that can be found in the Psalms?

6. How is the Bible a lamp unto our feet?

7. Give suggestions as to how Junior Highs can study the Bible.

8. What is the Quiet Hour?

9. What are some of the commands we are to follow?

10. How can we let our light shine?

Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 7 The Enduring Word Isaiah 40:6-8
T. Dec. 8 Not Ashamed of the Word Acts 4:29-32
W. Dec. 9 Heeding the Word Matthew 7:24-29
T. Dec. 10 His Word a Joy Jeremiah 15:15,16
F. Dec. 11 Keep His Word John 14:23-27
S. Dec. 12 Study His Word Acts 17:10-12
Sun. Dec. 13—Topic: "A Lamp unto My Feet" Psalm 119:105-112
(Universal Bible Sunday)

Comments by Pearl F. Reed, director of Christian Endeavor and church secretary of First Church of Evans, Derby, New York

Hymns listed in program outlines in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD have been selected from the new CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SONGS. This book, with an attractive orange and black krome-kote cover, contains 138 songs and hymns and 20 responsive Scripture readings for youth meetings. Available from International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Price: 60c each, $6 per dozen, $48 per hundred.

After Christmas--What Then?

Isaiah 9:6, 7; Luke 2:20

(Christmas Sunday)

Our Aims

1. To preserve the Christmas spirit throughout the year.
2. To realize specific ways to keep holiday happiness alive in 1965.

Buzz Session Instructions

Have the group divide the year into twelve months. If there are twelve groups, each will take one month; if six groups, then each group will take two months. Plans will be made for observing Christmas throughout the year. The first group will develop specific instructions on "Christmas in January," etc.

(Sample suggestion: For January plan to have the society sponsor "Shovel for Shut-Ins" month. Have a committee and willing members of the society to contact shut-ins so that snow will be removed from the walks of those who could not remove their own snow.)

(Another sample suggestion: Have "Christmas in July" at the county infirmary or children's home. Have someone in charge of setting a date and planning the program.)

Make suggestions in the buzz group for each month of the year. Then during the report and project period choose which suggestions will be society projects for 1965.

Publicity Ideas

Have "Christmas card" invitations delivered personally with an invitation to the meeting. Or have a member of the publicity committee get a messenger hat and have a personal "telegram" (copies of blank are available at the Western Union Office) or invitations delivered to each member and prospect.

An invitation in verse might read as follows:

Christmas spirit is often
Shut in a coffin *(perhaps picture one)*
From January to November
When folks just do not remember;
So to Christian Endeavor arrive
To keep Christmas alive
In nineteen sixty-five.

Be sure that every Junior High youth in the church and in the neighborhood gets an invitation to the meeting.

For the Leader

Be sure to plan the meeting ahead with the adult counselor. Preparedness is essential for a successful meeting.

P—Prepare early
R—Read much and carefully
E—Expect to spend time on the topic
P—Promote your project
A—Arrange your thoughts
R—Re-examine often
E—Eliminate unnecessary things
D—Do it thoroughly
N—Note details
E—Evaluate everything
S—Study expectantly
S—Serve attractively.

(From "How to Lead" by Julia Domescik in Missouri Endeavorer)

Sometime before the meeting have a meeting of the buzz group chairmen and give instructions so that they will know what to do in their group.

A personal study on the coming of Jesus could be of precious personal background for this lesson. Has he really come into my life? Have I acknowledged and confessed Him as my Saviour and Lord? Am I really doing all I should to help others let Jesus Christ to come into their lives?

An alternate approach to the lesson which could be very helpful would be to have the group study the daily readings and then report on how these may help them to keep Christmas all year long.

Project Suggestions

1. Reading for shut-ins.

2. Baby sitting while families do church work.

3. Observing Christmas in July for a missionary family.

4. Giving a gift in some month when no return is expected.

Christmas Inspiration Time

Have each member bring a Christmas card to the meeting. During this time of consecration have each member address the card to himself for mailing in July. On the card write something like, "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength I promise Him that *(then write some personal ways in which you intend to keep the Christmas spirit alive in 1965.)*

Ask your counselor or an officer to mail these cards about July 4, 1965. You will be able to see if you have kept on observing Christmas in the New Year.

The above drawing by Robert Moser of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, was entered in the 1964 Citizenship Awards Program of the International Society. It was used as part of a youth display urging teen-agers to witness for Christ in everyday living. The artist, who is 17 years old, is a member of Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Call to Worship: Isaiah 9:6,7
Christmas Carol Sing: *Silent Night, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Joy to the World*
Prayers of Christmas Thanksgiving (short "thank-you prayers")
Announcements and Offering
Special Music by Society Member
Responsive Reading No. 11 in *Christian Endeavor Songs* (Luke 2:8-20)
Leader's Introduction
Buzz Session Group Planning (See instructions below)
Report and Selection of Projects
Scripture Study
Questions for Discussion
Hymn: *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* (verse five)
Christmas Consecration Time
Benediction

Scripture Study

Isaiah 9:6,7

Here is a prophecy which is still in process of fulfillment in a sense. When Jesus is born into our hearts even today, He becomes the one who is "Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

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It is wonderful that the world takes note of His coming and celebrates His birth. It is sad that He is not often given the place in the celebration that He should have. It is even worse when God's people and Christian Endeavorers neglect Him the year around.

Many do not give Jesus Christ the place of honor in their lives. If we really believe the prophecy of old, He is given His rightful place as the divine Son of God. I John 5:1 says, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God," and I John 4:3 says, "Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God . . ."

Christmas observes the coming of Jesus as God's own Son in the flesh. If we really believe this, then we allow Him to be the ruler of our lives, and indeed "the government shall be upon his shoulder" (Isaiah 9:6).

Christmas will continue all year long if this Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace is in charge of our lives. Indeed, each day is better with Him, and Isaiah 9:7 expresses wonderfully the idea that "of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end."

Another precious thought of this passage centers around the idea that "the zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." What we cannot in ourselves accomplish, "Christ in you" becomes the strength that makes us able.

When Christ comes into a life or into a home He will "order it, and establish it with judgment and justice" (Isaiah 9:7). When a Junior High youth or anyone else needs motivation, push, and help in life, Christ is the answer!

Luke 2:20 is an example to us as to how we should respond after Christ comes into our lives. The shepherds returned with a new song in their hearts. They had heard the glorious announcement of the angels and had seen the precious arrival of Jesus on earth.

To God they gave the glory, and they praised Him with lip and life. Let us be sure to praise God with all we say and do. Paul said it this way in Colossians 3:17, "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." He came close to all youth as he said in verse 20, "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." Is this where some of us will have to begin serving the Lord for the year to come? Will we be obedient all year long, and not just close to the time when we think "being good" might mean a precious gift from a parent or someone who is a close friend?

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the true Christmas spirit?
2. In what ways is the spirit of the true Christmas neglected during the rest of the year?
3. How could adults set a better example for Junior High youth in continuous Christmas spirit?
4. Why is the observance of Christmas overdone in December and neglected during the rest of the year?
5. In what ways does our church or society observe Christmas all year?
6. What parts of the Christmas observance are good? What parts are bad?
7. How can daily Bible reading keep Christmas alive?

Philippians 4:1-7

This passage reminds us that the faithful follower and laborer for Christ is happy in Christ. "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." Do the people that know me and live with me day after day see in me a happy Christian? Is "joy unspeakable and full of glory" through the Lord Jesus Christ seen in my life?

With awareness that "the Lord is at hand," we need to be dependent upon Him for all things. Our confidence in Him helps bring (verse 7) peace of God, which passes all understanding. This passage suggests that the way to keep Christmas alive is to "rejoice alway," and have a time of Quiet Hour prayer and devotions every day. How many members of our society are members of the Quiet Hour plan of personal devotions? Have we given opportunity to join this plan recently?

Matthew 2:1-10

The wise men from the East followed the light of the star, and it led them to Jesus. We need to "walk in the light as He is in the light" in order that we may have "fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).

We observe that they lost sight of the star for a while and looked to man for the light. The light for the way was found in the Word of God, and they went on to Bethlehem. In the Word of God we find direction for our lives. There we see the star and find real happiness in Christ. We must follow the light of the Word of God each day of the coming year.

Matthew 2:11

Out of that which meant much to the wise men was given the gift of love to Christ. With much effort, perhaps two years of journeying, they brought their gifts to Jesus. We need to be sure that the treasures of our lives are dedicated to Christ. We need to give Him that which means much to us. The big "I" which is the center of sIn must be given over to Christ. Real joy is found in:

J esus first
O thers second
Y ou third.

Matthew 2:12-15

Like the early apostles, the wise men said, "We ought to obey God rather than men," and they did what God told them to do. If we obey God, it will at times cost a loss in popularity, but "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ," and this is for eternity. Let us obey the marching orders of Christ for eternity.

In a Christian Endeavor convention, a pastor told of a minister of the Gospel who was given a choice of losing his family or stopping his preaching of Christ in a far-off, Communist-dominated country. The minister chose Christ. This was not an easy choice. Could you choose Christ in such a place?

Ephesians 6:23,24

Paul, inspired of the Holy Spirit, climaxed a great letter with this exhortation of love. We show the love of Christ as we worship Him faithfully and with all our hearts. To love is to be mature in Christ. In Ephesians 4:15 we are told that we "speaking the truth in love, may grow up unto Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."

It is fun to be young. Some of us do not want to grow up. This "Peter Pan" complex is not the real reason that God has placed us on earth. Some day Junior High youth will have to show love and care for others like our parents show now toward us. Let us get in practice for the future by loving others in a Christlike way now!

John 1:29,30

John saw in Jesus "the Lamb of God." We too must see the Lamb in a personal way. He alone takes away our sins. Matthew 12:41,42 reminds us that "a greater than Jonah is here." When we see Jesus as our Saviour, it makes a great difference in what we want and how we live!

Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 14	Rejoice in Him	Philippians 4:1-7
T. Dec. 15	Follow His Light	Matthew 2:1-10
W. Dec. 16	Give to Him	Matthew 2:11
T. Dec. 17	Obey Him	Matthew 2:12-15
F. Dec. 18	Love Him	Ephesians 6:23,24
S. Dec. 19	Behold Him	John 1:29-34

Sun. Dec. 20—Topic: After Christmas—What Then? Isaiah 9:6,7; Luke 2:20 (Christmas Sunday)

Comments by Rev. Clarence A. Kopp, Jr., pastor of the Prescott Avenue United Brethren in Christ Church, Dayton, Ohio

The Gate of the Year

Psalm 118:14-21

(New Year's Sunday)

Aims

1. To consider the elements which have made Christian Endeavor distinctive and effective through the years.
2. To help Junior Highs see that only by adhering to these same principles will 1965 be a year of achievement for Christ and the Church.

Planning the Meeting

Secure a white picket gate from your church, from a lumber yard, or from some individual. (Many churches have them to use at promotion time.) If this is impossible, ask your committee to make a large gate out of heavy cardboard which can be placed on a table. The gate should be locked with 1964 over the top until the proper time in the meeting, when the leader unlocks the gate and replaces the 1964 with 1965.

Leader's Introduction

Once more a year is closing—this time, 1964. It will never return. What has been left undone can never be done, and what has been written upon the pages of our lives cannot be erased. But Christianity is a religion which looks ahead. Christian Endeavor has had eighty-three years of glorious history because it has challenged young people to keep striving for something better and higher. Our goal has been Jesus Christ: to win young people to Him and to train them in His service. Our Christian Endeavor Pledge has been the backbone of the movement. Tonight our topic is *The Gate of the Year.* Before the year 1964 comes to a close we are going to rethink our pledge. Then as we unlock

the gate and think ahead to 1965, let us remember the International Society of Christian Endeavor theme for 1964-1965, *Through Christ I Can.* It is by "trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength" that we can win other Junior Highs to Him, that we can grow in our own spiritual lives, and that we can have an effective service *for Christ and the Church.*

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service

Prelude: *We Would Be Building*

Call to Worship: Psalm 100 (unison)

Songs: *There's a New Day Dawning* (read words if not familiar with tune) and *Living For Jesus*

Offering

Leader's Introduction

Rethinking the Pledge

"Through Christ I Can"

Poem: *A New Leaf,* by Kathleen Wheeler (found in many collections of familiar poems)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 118:14-21

Candlelight Consecration Service *(elsewhere on page)*

(Attend the evening church service in a body!)

Publicity

Cut a large picket gate from white construction paper and paste it on a colored background. Over the gate letter the words of the topic, *The Gate of the Year.* Use 1965 as a lock on the gate. Give name of society, name of leader, and time and place of meeting.

Hand out small "gates" with appropriate wording to the Junior Highs on Sunday morning, or send them through the mail to any whom you know will not be likely to be present at Bible School.

Put announcement of meeting in your church bulletin.

The committee might also make placards with *Through Christ I Can, Confession of Christ, Service for Christ, Loyalty to Christ's Church, Fellowship with Christ's People, and For Christ and the Church* to be placed around the room for atmosphere. (Some of these might be carefully written on the chalkboard, at different angles, if you have a good-sized board in your meeting room).

Candlelight Consecration Service

Secure a large white candle to represent Christ, the Light of the World, and enough smaller candles for each one present to have one. After the talks on the different emphases of our pledge which have made Christian Endeavor a *different* organization in the past, the leader will replace the 1964 on the gate with a 1965, and open the gate slightly with appropriate remarks. He will light his candle from the large one and give his testimony as to how through Christ he resolves to be a better Christian Endeavorer in 1965. He will then invite all of the other Junior Highs to come forward, open the gate slightly, light their candles, give their testimonies, and take their places, forming a circle around the room. *(Take great care with the candles!)*

When all testimonies have been given, the gate of 1965 will be wide open, and the circle of light complete. Close by repeating the pledge in unison, singing *Through Christ I Can* or *Take My Life and Let It Be,* and giving a prayer of thanks for Christian Endeavor in 1964 and years past, and asking God's help in making the most of the opportunities He gives us to serve Him through Christian Endeavor and in making the year 1965 a best year *for Christ and the Church.*

Each one will pass in turn by the table, blow out his candle, place it in a receptacle, and leave the room quietly.

To the Counselor

This last meeting of the year, coming so soon after Christmas and with some of the Junior Highs probably away, can be just another meeting, or it can be very meaningful. It will take real effort and definite prayer if it is to be worthwhile.

You will probably need to take the responsibility of the preparing for the candlelight service, and also for seeing that all other suggestions are carried out. You will probably want to pray the closing consecration prayer, or arrange for others to do so.

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Every society should have some of the following materials on hand for 1965:

A Vital Program for Youth, which is a folder outlining our 1963-65 theme, *Through Christ I Can* (free).

Guide for Action 1964-65 (Junior High edition) containing lists of topics, daily readings, and monthly suggestions for six committees from September 1964 through August 1965 (25c).

Planning the Program of a Christian Endeavor Society, which will help leaders plan better programs (50c).

Copies of the chorus, *Through Christ I Can* (5c each, 25c a dozen).

Quiet Hour Enrollment Cards, and *Christian Endeavor Pledge Cards* (35c a dozen each).

Committee Activities

DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE. Stress the importance of attendance at pre-prayer services. Plans for the first meeting in the New Year should be well under way. Be prepared to give brief summary of the topics to be studied in January and names of the leaders.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE. Announce any plans for Watch Night service or party.

LOOKOUT COMMITTEE. See that the membership roll is up-to-date. Contact *every* member with a special invitation to be present the first Sunday in the New Year. Arrange for transportation both ways, if necessary. Follow up all absentees each week.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Plans for Christian Endeavor week should be under way. See the *Christian Endeavor Week Packet* for ideas for a complete week of celebration. Present *Membership Mobilization* and join in the *Society Roll Call* for the International Society.

Rethinking Our Pledge

1. *"Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength."* Jesus says, "Without me, ye can do nothing." When we are asked to do things in Christian Endeavor, we often say, "I can't do that." (Read Philippians 4:13 and II Corinthians 12:9). Jesus also promises, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

2. *"I promise Him that I will strive* (Colossians 1:29) *to do whatever* (John 2:5; 15:14) *He would like to have me do"* (Colossians 3:17,23). Why is it important that we be willing to *try*?

3. *"That I will make it the rule of my life to pray* (Psalm 55:17) *and read the Bible every day"* (Revelation 1:3; II Timothy 2:15; John 5:39). The good Endeavorer will be interested in his spiritual growth and will take time daily for spiritual food, even though he will have to choose to leave other things undone.

4. *"Throughout my whole life I will endeavor to lead a Christian life"* (Psalm 25:5; Philippians 3:14). This not only means *as long* as we live, *but in every part* of our lives, at home, school, in my social life, in my thinking, in *all* my relationships.

5. *"As an active member, I promise to be true to all my duties"* (Colossians 4:17; I Corinthians 15:58). The society can only be as strong as each member in it. Failure to do your part of the committee's work, or to prepare a talk, or to be present when you are expected and needed is not *endeavoring* at all.

6. *"To be present at and take some part . . . in every Christian Endeavor meeting"* (Romans 10:9,10; Acts 3:6; Colossians 3:16). Why is faithful participation necessary for our own growth in the Christian life, and for winning other Junior Highs to Christ?

7. *"If obliged to be absent from the monthly consecration meeting of the society, I will, if possible, send at least a verse of Scripture to be read in response to my name at the roll call."* This meeting is more than a roll call. It is a time of reconsecration to Christ, and an opportunity for giving a testimony for Christ.

"Through Christ I Can"

Lillian was secretary of her Christian Endeavor society and chairman of the social committee of her class at school. One Friday night there was a conflict. The class was to have a party, and the Christian Endeavor society was to have its regular business meeting on the same night. Lillian arranged for a member of her committee to start the games at the party, and she went to the business meeting first and then to the party. One of her classmates, who was not a Christian said, "If your religion means that much to you, there must be something to it!" Lillian was able to lead her classmate to Christ.

* * * * *

One of the most important influences in the life of any Christian is the keeping of the Quiet Hour each day. E. Stanley Jones said that two essentials for keeping the Quiet Hour are to establish a definite *time* and to have a definite *place.* Men and women of achievement have faithfully kept this tryst with the Lord. Is this a step you need to take in 1965? If you should spend one-half an hour a day memorizing a Bible verse, think what a storehouse of knowledge you would have at the end of the year! Or even if you memorized only one verse a week!

* * * * *

All boys and girls want to be popular. Jesus teaches us that the road to true popularity is the road of service. A magnet was seen hanging in a laboratory, loaded heavily with weights. When someone asked the scientist the reason for this, he replied, "The magnet was losing its power by lying around here and not using it, and I am restoring its force by giving it something to do—more every day." Christians must keep serving, or they become lukewarm and then cold.

* * * * *

A famous orchestra conductor was having a rehearsal with a vast array of players and singers. As the sound of the voices and instruments rang out, one man who played the piccolo away up in the corner ceased to play. He thought that his instrument would not be missed. Suddenly the great conductor threw up his hands and all was still. Then he shouted, "Where is the piccolo?" The quick ear of the master had missed it, and for him the chorus was not right without it. The task of each one in our Christian Endeavor society is important!

* * * * *

A boy was asked what it was in the minister's sermon that had influenced him to give his heart to Christ. He replied, "It was nothing the minister said. It was the sincere Christian life that my friend George lives. I have been listening to the prayers he has prayed in the Christian Endeavor meetings, and I have been watching his life. His life rings true, and I want to be a Christian because of what Christ has done for George."

Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 21 Seek Him First — Matthew 6:24-33
T. Dec. 22 Follow after Him — Mark 1:16-20
W. Dec. 23 Share in His Work — I Corinthians 16:1-3
T. Dec. 24 Be a Good Workman — II Timothy 2:15,16
F. Dec. 25 Be Helpful — III John 1-8
S. Dec. 26 Be Faithful — Matthew 24:6-13
Sun. Dec. 27—Topic: The Gate of the Year — Psalm 118:14-21
(New Year's Sunday)

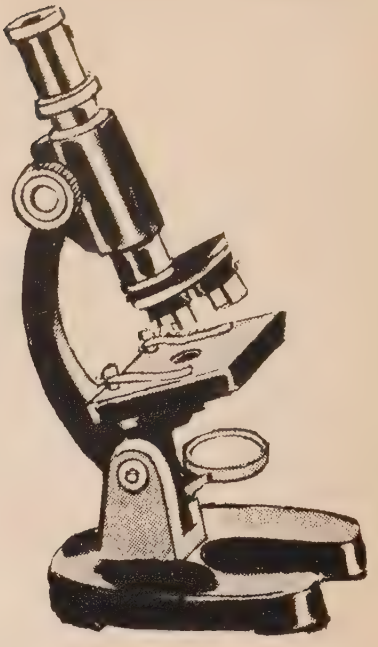
Comments by Mrs. Aldis L. Webb, wife of a retired Christian Church minister and teacher in a Christian day school in California

Topics FOR SENIOR HIGHS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Topic 2 in a Unit: Bible Appreciation

A Microscopic View of the Bible

Romans 12



General Information

This topic is the second in a series of three. The first, called *A Macroscopic View of the Bible,* took a long over-all look at the Bible. In this topic the intent is to take a very close look at a smaller section of the Book. The purpose in this topic treatment is (1) to develop a procedure for Bible study and understanding, and (2) to apply the principles in a workshop experience.

Book Display

Ask a committee to arrange for a display of basic books needed for Bible study. Perhaps the Devotional Committee might promote the project. The following books might be included: various versions of the Bible such as Phillips, the American Revised, etc.; concordance, Bible dictionary, a one-volume commentary, and Bible atlas or maps. Halley's *Handbook* is a fine resource book. Someone could make a brief presentation of the purpose of each of the books, along with the manner of using them.

Procedure for Topic Presentation

1. Introduce the topic and explain the method for the program.
2. Conduct the interview with Paul.
3. Present the principles of understanding the Bible. Put them on a chalkboard.
4. Divide the group and conduct the workshops.

An Interview With Paul

Conduct this section as a throwback time interview. Let the one doing the interview be seated before a tape recorder, radio, etc., to simulate electronic equipment.

ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, we are seeking to reach back into the first century to answer a request to talk to a man known as Paul. We are going to tune in on our Super Chromatic ageless time eliminator and try to answer this request to talk to Paul. We believe we can reach him in Rome. Calling R-O-M-E, calling R-O-M-E, Calling R-O-

VOICE: This is Time-Age Station R-O-U-N-D, named for Columbus who first declared the world to be round. Station R-O-U-N-D is owned and operated by the Isabella Associates.

ANNOUNCER: Sorry, we are trying to reach R-O-M-E.

VOICE: You have the wrong ether level; move up to XY47B and increase your megasonic power to nth0420 ZIP.

ANNOUNCER: Thank you (plays with dials). Calling R-O-M-E, calling R-O-M-E, come in R-O-M-

VOICE: This is R-O-M-E, first century level; can I help you?

ANNOUNCER: This is Christian Endeavor, twentieth century level, and we have a request for an interview with a man named Paul. Can you seal us in with him?

VOICE: Just one chromatic instant.

NEW VOICE: This is Paul; greetings in the name of Christ.

ANNOUNCER: We have some twentieth century young people who would like an interview with you. Can you talk with them?

PAUL: It is a joy to speak to anyone about the Master.

ANNOUNCER: Will you first tell us about yourself?

PAUL: I am known as Paul. I was born in Tarsus and named Saul by my parents. I am a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, and I was brought up as a member of a strict sect called the Pharisees. I was sent to Jerusalem to study in one of the great schools there. According to the custom of my people, I already knew the trade of tentmaking. I was interested in religion, philosophy, and the government of men.

ANNOUNCER: You mentioned that you were first called Saul. Why are you now known as Paul?

PAUL: I was a very ardent supporter of my faith as a Jew when I came to Jerusalem. About this time a man whose name was Jesus became well known. Jesus of Nazareth they called Him. I firmly believed he was an impostor and a real threat to the Jewish faith. I sought to stamp out the movement and even shared in the execution of some of the followers. One, Stephen, was stoned by people whose coats I held. He died in great faith in this Jesus, with the look of heaven on his face. This I shall never forget. On the way to Damascus after the death and reputed resurrection of this Jesus He appeared to me. Me, of all people, His bitterest foe! He identified Himself beyond a shadow of doubt. All the things He told me to go and do have been exactly as He described. I became a follower and an apostle, traveling over the known world to proclaim the message that He is the Christ and the Saviour of men. It was at this time that I acquired the new name of Paul. I established churches in many spots in the world and kept in touch with them by writing to them.

ANNOUNCER: Are you also an author?

PAUL: Yes, in that I have written to the various churches. They assure me that these letters will become valuable to the churches and they will preserve the letters.

ANNOUNCER: The young people here say that they have copies of the letters and that they treasure and read them regularly.

PAUL: This is a great joy to me to know that so many of you follow the Lord.

ANNOUNCER: Would you tell about the writing of the letters?

PAUL: Oh, yes! Some are addressed to individuals who helped me in the missionary program. Among these are Titus and Timothy. Other letters are addressed to churches I helped to start, such as those in Corinth and in Ephesus. The letter to Galatia was sent to all the churches in that area.

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ANNOUNCER: What was the purpose of your message?

PAUL: The letter was to encourage, inform, and inspire the Christians in Galatia.

ANNOUNCER: Were the followers there having problems?

PAUL: Yes, with a group who insisted that the Gentiles become Jews before they could be Christians. This led only to bondage under the Old Testament law when as Christians we are free in Christ.

ANNOUNCER: How did you determine what to write? Did you do research or talk to the other apostles?

PAUL: Of course, I knew the conditions in the area and the needs of the people by having visited there and lived among them. But the message of the Gospel that I preached I did not get from any man, for it was revealed to me. As I wrote to the Galatians, "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Galatians 1:11,12). As I further told them, "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia and returned again unto Damascus" (Galatians 1:15,16).

ANNOUNCER: Did you meet the other apostles?

PAUL: After three years I went to Jerusalem and stayed with Peter for 15 days. But James, the Lord's brother, was the only other apostle that I saw. I received the Gospel from the Lord Jesus Christ.

ANNOUNCER: Then the letters were written to different people and for different purposes?

PAUL: Some were for individuals, and some for churches or groups of churches. The purpose depended upon the needs of the people. I wrote as guided by the Lord. All the letters were written between the years 49 and 65 A.D. I urged in some instances that churches exchange the letters; for example, the followers at Colossae and Laodicea were to exchange letters (Colossians 4:16).

ANNOUNCER: Thank you, Paul. Now we must return to our regular time level. Up, over, and out.

ANNOUNCER: Young people, it seems that a summary of some of the facts we have learned might be helpful. In studying the Bible, it is always important to learn some pertinent facts. (1) Who wrote the passage under consideration? (2) Why and when was it written? (3) Under what circumstances was it written? (4) To whom is it addressed? (5) What is the content of the message? Perhaps two more questions would also be in order. (6) What is the meaning for young people of today? (7) And for each one to ask, what is the message for ME?

Principles for Understanding the Bible

1. The message of the Bible is in the language of men. It is intended to be an understandable message. When God spoke to Moses at the burning bush, it was in his own language that Moses understood. It was not in a foreign tongue or in gibberish that left Moses wondering what God meant. Moses knew exactly what the Lord wanted him to do. In all of his excuses he never once suggested that he did not understand the instructions. The New Testament was written in Greek, which was the most universally understood tongue of the era. Isaiah quoted the Lord as saying, "Come now, let us reason together" (Isaiah 1:18). Philip approached the Ethiopian officer with the question, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" These are but a few of the passages that point to the need and the intent for men to understand the Bible.

2. The second principle is that the rules for understanding the Bible are the same as those for understanding any other book. If this is *not* true, then the Bible is beyond the understanding of all men. Or there must be developed a class who can alone understand the book. If this is true, then a select group is favored and God becomes a respecter of persons. It is true that by application and study one person may attain greater understanding, but this is a matter of personal effort and not an intention of God.

3. A third principle is that the words used are to be understood in their regular sense according to the time in which they were used. A living language is constantly changing, and some allowances must be made for these changes. For example, the word "charity" in the King James version has undergone a change so that in today's language it means generosity to the poor or a gift for the needy. When the version was produced, it meant much as our word "love" does today. Thus, the meaning at the time of usage is very important. Sometimes the writer indicates the meaning he intends, as the Scripture does in the case of the word "Immanuel" (God with us). The meaning of an obscure word may be determined by the sense of the sentence or the over-all design of the writer.

4. This brings us to the fourth principle—the design of the writer. Sometimes the writer clearly states his purpose. For example, John does this in John 20:30,31. All the material will harmonize with the over-all design. When the purpose is not clearly stated, it can be determined by a consideration of the entire document. Passages of obscure meaning may be resolved by examination of the writer's other statements on the same subject. Writers of equal authority may be used for a source of information. For example, Paul discusses the subject of sin in Romans 1:18-32. He has a discussion in II Corinthians 5:17-21. John, a writer with apostolic standing, also discusses sin in I John 3:4-9. Comparison, using the rules of interpretation, will aid in reaching the meaning of the New Testament regarding this or other subjects. Where there appears to be a contradiction, take the meaning that permits all that is said upon the subject to be true.

Workshops on Meaning of Scripture

Set up some workshops to put into practice the technique learned. Here's how to do it:

1. Divide the society into groups of four to six.

2. Assign a Scripture passage to each unit.

3. Apply the above questions and principles to the assigned passage and have a secretary of each group record the findings.

4. Report the results to the entire group.

Here are the questions again:

1. Who wrote the passage?
2. To whom and when did he write?
3. What were the circumstances of those to whom he wrote?
4. What was the occasion of the writing?
5. What was the purpose for writing?
6. What is the message?
7. What is the meaning for today?

Here are some Scripture passages that might be assigned to the groups: John 20:30,31; Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-5; Revelation 1:1-5; Revelation 1:9-20; Romans 1:1-7.

Daily Bible Readings

M. Nov. 30 An Old Request, a Contemporary Need — II Timothy 3:14-17
T. Dec. 1 Old Theme with New Emphasis — Ephesians 4:1-7
W. Dec. 2 God's Imitators — Ephesians 5:1-7
T. Dec. 3 Night Lighters — Ephesians 5:8-14
F. Dec. 4 The Church, the Body of Christ — Ephesians 5:22-33
S. Dec. 5 Parent-Child Relationships — Ephesians 6:1-4
Sun. Dec. 6—Topic: A Microscopic View of the Bible — Romans 12

Comments by Elwood Dunn, general secretary of the Michigan Christian Endeavor Union and extension representative of the International Society of Christian Endeavor

Topic 3 in a Unit: Bible Appreciation

New Adventures in Bible Reading

Psalm 121

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Call to Worship: II Timothy 2:15
Hymn: *Wonderful Words of Life*
Scripture Reading: II Timothy 3:13-17
Hymn: *Faith of Our Fathers*
Prayer Time: Before the program ask one person to be prepared to lead in prayer and to express specifically thanksgiving to God for His inspired revelation to us.
Special Feature: Ask a choral group to read Psalm 121.
Announcements and Offering
Special Feature: Ask someone to read *The Cotter's Saturday Night,* by Robert Burns.
Leader's Introduction
Talks on the Topic
Buzz Session
Counselor's Conclusions
Mizpah Benediction

Publicity

Construct a poster in the shape of an open Bible. Use white poster paper; outline it with bands of gold and black; place a red bookmark down the center. With black ink and felt pen print, on one side of the poster: topic, date, time, and place; on the other side, print: *Learn how a speaking choir can be used in the worship service for a litany, a call to worship, a Scripture reading.*

For the Leader

Following a brief introduction of the evening's theme and purpose, ask the five speakers to present their topics, in order and without introductions. After the topics have been presented, divide those present into rehearsal groups. Allow for time for the reassembled group to practice choral reading of the Scriptures. Lead in the discussion and plans for practical application of the "Praises to the Lord" project.

Germ ideas for the leader's introduction: In *The Cotter's Saturday Night,* which our devotional leader read, Robert Burns describes the domestic felicity and the solid virtues of the humble Scotch peasantry of a century and a half ago: family life with the Bible in the place of honor. The reason for such recognition is that the Bible is the divinely inspired revelation from God. It lays bare the inmost heart and purposes of the Almighty. It reveals man's origin, duty, and destiny. We must read it to be informed, to heed its message, and to accept the Saviour it reveals in order to be saved.

Tonight we're going to consider a new and different method of Bible reading: choral reading. Come with us on this exciting adventure—an adventure in Bible reading.

Talks on the Topic

The Book We Live By

God has spoken. We must hold that fact as the foundation of our faith. He has spoken through the pages of His book, which we call the Bible. He has spoken through His Son, Jesus Christ. He speaks through lives of Christian people and through the realm of nature. He has spoken in such a way that He may be heard, understood, and heeded.

The Bible is more than one book. It is a whole library of many books, by many authors, written during many periods of time, in many lands, and in many languages — Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic. It includes numerous forms of literature —history, poetry, biography, travel, morals, epistles, prophecies. Yet, throughout the Bible—from cover to cover—is but one central theme: God's love, which manifested itself, ultimately, in His sending His Son to die for the sins of mankind.

Knowledge of the Holy Scriptures is essential to an understanding of what it means to be a Christian, for in the Scriptures God reveals what the life of a follower of God ought to be. The Bible not only prescribes the way of God; it also tells the way to God.

Our purpose should be to present the Bible, winsomely, attractively, and understandably to others. One of the new, different, and delightful ways of presenting Scripture readings is through choral presentations. Tonight we'll hear about and practice for such presentations.

Praises to the Lord

Our first speaker has indicated that choral Scripture reading is new. It is new to *us,* possibly, but the practice goes way back into Old Testament history. Nearly all the poets of the ancient Hebrews were sacred writers, and even their nature poems were psalms. Many of these were sung or chanted with musical accompaniment and many were read antiphonally.

While the beauty of the Old Testament always has been appreciated, especially in the noble melody of the King James Version of the Bible, it was many years before it was recognized as poetry. For this reason, much that is now known to be poetry is still printed in prose. This way of printing obscures one of the chief characteristics of Hebrew verse, for the art of the Hebrew poet differed from that of our own English poets.

Three characteristics in most English poetry are rhyme, meter, and verse. In Hebrew poetry there are few rhymes. Those poets seemed to think the device unworthy of dignified poetry. It is found occasionally. For example, Samson's riddle may be translated:

Ont of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came something sweet.

The most noticeable characteristic of the verse of the Hebrew people is, without doubt, parallelism. The Hebrew poets utilized parallel thoughts rather than rhyming words. A typical example is:

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.

The repetition often gave a wondrous effectiveness to the thought, particularly in the Psalms and Proverbs. The mind and the ear wait for the repetition, as for a beautiful echo.

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The antiphony or responsive singing was also used effectively in Hebrew worship. Its parallelism was often progressive; it added a new idea. For example:

Who is the king of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord mighty in battle.

Much of the Hebrew poetry was adaptable to oral recitation, which is an excellent test of poetry.

Looking at Examples

Each year, in Pineville, Kentucky, on the edge of the Smoky Mountains, a theatrical company presents *The Book of Job.* Incomparable in color and drama the story is developed by means of choral reading. The speakers read their lines in four-part harmony. This feature is one of the production's claim to fame.

Such ability requires much by way of voice texture, control, quality, and projection. But the results are well worth the effort. In the Scriptures are many and varied passages suitable for choral readings. Some are as follows:

Poems of Creation: The Story of Creation (Genesis 1:1—2:3); Creation's Hymn (Psalm 148:1-14); God the Maker of All Things (Jeremiah 10:6-16).

Nature's Beauty and Wonder: Gardens and Fields (compilation of various passages from the Psalms and Isaiah); The Sea (Psalm 33:7-22); The Heavens (Psalm 19:1-14).

These are typical examples. Many others may be added, including the Summary of the Law, Woe to False Prophets, Psalms and Prayers of Israel. The books of Psalms, Song of Solomon, Job, and Lamentations are especially suitable for choral recitations. Other possibilities are in the books of Genesis and Isaiah. As with any public presentation of combined effort, practice in choral reading will make perfect.

Let's Go Adventuring

We'll begin in a beautiful garden. We'll walk beside the refreshing streams, admire the beautiful flowers, pet the friendly animals. But we'll have to run for cover as God's wrath is manifested in His sending His children from the garden, because of their disobedience. We'll wander through the wilderness, into Egypt, and finally into the Promised Land.

We'll sit in the courtroom of the lawgiver and the judges. But our feet will become weary and the pathway ahead will become steep. We will sit down beside the cool waters and listen to the psalmist and the poets. Refreshed and renewed, we'll walk through the corridor of the prophets as we hear God say, "I will send my messenger."

We'll pause in Bethlehem to worship a newborn King; follow Him during His all-too-brief ministry; listen to His agonizing cry, "Father, it is finished!" as He dies for the sins of mankind. We'll listen to the preaching of His apostles and disciples. We'll read their letters, heed their teachings.

And finally we'll end our journey in a beautiful city, where the streets are paved with gold, the walls are adorned with jasper, and the city is lighted by God himself. This will be the end of the journey, because we'll be home to stay.

And throughout the journey we'll raise our voices in psalms and hymns of praise:

Praise ye the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary:
Praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him for his mighty acts:
Praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him with the sound of the trumpet:
Praise him with psaltery and harp.
Praise him with the timbrel and dance:
Praise him with stringed instruments and organs.
Praise him upon the loud cymbals:
Praise him upon the high-sounding cymbals.
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.
Praise ye the Lord! (Psalm 150)

This is the adventure we take in reading through the whole Bible.

Setting the Scene

In the Bible are examples of eloquent utterances that excel the greatest passages preserved for us in the literature of any people.

The Book of Deuteronomy is typical. The personality is that of Moses, the man of God. The theme is Jehovah's covenant with His people Israel with the reasons why and the manner in which it must be fulfilled. The occasion is a national assembly of the leaders of Israel. The crisis is that which will arise when the descendants of these wilderness-trained men will be tempted to break the covenant and honor the gods of the land and of the surrounding nation. The persons whose fate is involved are not only the assembly before the speaker, but also their descendants for generations to come.

The sonorous roll of the sentences, the finality of the message, the force of the argument, the intensity of the speaker —these make especially appropriate readings for a soloist, who would read:

Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it; that thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I commanded thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged (Deuteronomy 6:1,2).

And the chorus would respond:
Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might (Deuteronomy 6:4,5).

Before we can present such choral readings to an audience, we must first set the scene, prepare the hearts of those assembled to receive the message, and then speak with clarity and conviction as did the angels on the night when Christ was born.

Counselor's Conclusions

Following these presentations, divide the students into groups according to voice qualities. Ask them to practice the reading of a specified portion of Scripture, such as Psalm 24, 66, or 121. After the rehearsals have them reassemble, group them as they would stand in a choir loft, and have them read the passage together, in choral recitation form. *(Additional information may be obtained by securing books edited by Helen A. Brown and Harry J. Heltman, from Westminster Press, Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.)*

Launch plans for the organization of a speaking choir to be used in the worship service for a litany, a call to worship, or a Scripture reading. Designate the project as a "Praises to the Lord Program."

Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 7 The Happy Man Psalm 1
T. Dec. 8 The Shepherd's Psalm Psalm 23
W. Dec. 9 Upon Entering God's Sanctuary Psalm 24
T. Dec. 10 A New Song Psalm 40
F. Dec. 11 A Hunter's Psalm Psalm 42
S. Dec. 12 A Deeply Moving Experience Psalm 51
Sun. Dec. 13—Topic: New Adventures in Bible Reading Psalm 121

Comments by Jay Sheffield of Cincinnati, Ohio, editor of THE LOOKOUT

Silent Night vs. Jingle Bells

Luke 2:1-20

(Christmas Sunday)

Publicity and Promotion

Make as many signs as you need to post in advantageous places in the church building to advertise the meeting. These signs or posters can be made by using old Christmas cards. Select two types: one representing the secular spirit of Christmas; the other, the spiritual significance of Christmas. If you prefer, cut out of magazines ads in color reflecting these two contrasting views of Christmas. Paste one of each on the poster in opposite corners some little distance from the top of it. Beneath each print the appropriate words: JINGLE BELLS or SILENT NIGHT. Then beneath these phrases extend an invitation to attend the gathering, giving place, date, and hour of the meeting.

Since Christmas is a time for sending greetings it would be appropriate to extend a personal invitation in this form to each one you would like to have present. Buy the type that has a religious theme for the picture and blank on the other pages. Inside you can then write a personal invitation giving full particulars along with a Bible verse such as Luke 2:10,11 as a greeting.

Guidance for Leader

Perhaps a good way to present this topic would be to introduce each contrast in attitude with a brief skit. For the symbol of the star, have two members in the process of buying Christmas decorations for a tree. Let the one choose a Santa Claus for the top of the tree, the other a star. Then let each explain briefly why he or she has selected that particular one.

For the symbol of the message have two more members in the process of selecting Christmas cards. After each has made a selection, the one humorous, the other sacred, let each explain why.

For the symbol of the song have two more members in a music shop buying records. Let one make the purchase of a funny Christmas recording, the other of sacred music. Again, let this be the occasion for explaining the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas is the ideal time for enriching the meeting by using an appropriate worship center. Such could be arranged in the form of a manger scene with the star of Bethlehem hanging above it. Or such a center could be made by taking a large copy of a painting of *The Nativity* by some famous artist. On either side of it could be placed candles in appropriate holders. In front of it could be spread a red or white panel of cloth and on it a Bible opened to the Christmas stoiry as found in Luke.

Leader's Talk

Just what does Christmas mean? If one listens to the radio or television, it would appear to be a time to sing *Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer, I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas,* or *All I Want Is My Two Front Teeth.* Not only is it the time to sing such profane songs, but also the occasion to give mother a new washing machine, father an electric shaver, sister some Chanel #5, and the children all sorts of expensive toys and gadgets.

To read the newspapers is to find them overflowing with suggestions as to how one can spend his money extravagantly so as to give others a truly happy Christmas. Some of the more sophisticated magazines go so far as to make outlandish suggestions for the person who has everything such as a diamond-studded toothpick. And if one really wants to do something different, why not a cruise to the West Indies?

Is this what Christmas really means? Surely this is not what originally gave rise to the occasion. The name "Christmas" means Christ's mass, that is, annual church festival kept on December 25 in memory of the birth of Christ, the son of God, the Saviour of men. Do we truly honor Christ and show forth our gratitude to God for His priceless gift to us in love when we celebrate the occasion as all too often we do? How much of what we do at this season of the year is consciously related to Christ's birth? Are we motivated by deep gratitude to God for His unspeakable gift to us?

Let us consider the meaning of Christmas by using some of the symbols connected with Christ's birth. In all too many instances these have been profaned to convey nothing more than a secular emphasis rather than the spiritual truth intended.

Suggested Program

Recorded Organ Christmas Music
Call to Worship: Luke 2:10,11
Hymn: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
Prayer of Adoration
Responsive Reading: Selection 14 in *Christian Endeavor Songs* (John 1:1-14)
Gloria Patri
Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:1-20
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession
Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
Announcements and Offering
Presentation of Topic
Topic Discussion
Hymn: *Joy to the World*
Benediction

Talks on the Topic

The Star

Is it merely a nice decoration to put on the top of the Christmas tree or above the doorway of our homes? Hardly! The star that shone that first Christmas night was a star of hope. Long years of looking to men as the hope of a people had brought but disappointment and despair as each promising beginning quickly turned to a rule of corruption, injustice, and costly stupidity. Long years of fol-

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lowing the wisdom of men had resulted in material advancement but had contributed nothing in the way of enabling men to use such achievements for the blessing rather than the cursing of mankind. Long years of trusting in the supposed goodness of men had brought heartache, enslavement, and betrayal. Thus had the darkness of despair fallen upon the hearts and minds of men through the failure of all on which men had pinned their hopes. It was no longer to earth that mankind could look, but to heaven. Eagerly they scanned the starry skies for that sign, promised of old, that would announce that God, who seemed so far away, had come among them to set things right among men and to set things right in man. When at last it appeared, men knew that the night of despair had given way to the dawn of hope!

Thus, the star that shone that first Christmas night was and continues to be the assurance that God has not forsaken earth or forgotten any child of His. So often when our plans go wrong, the even tenor of our ways is rudely shattered by sorrow or affliction, or our best efforts result in failure, it is so easy to feel that there is no justice, no use in doing what is right, no hope of anything beyond this vale of tears, and, in despair, yield to the impulse of darkness, "Curse God and die." But it is in those very hours of darkness that the Star of Hope can be seen most clearly if only we will look up, not down. There it glows in all its brightness and glory, proclaiming that though men's selfish and contrary ways caused a darkness to fall about the heart of God deeper than any through which man has had to move, yet God did not despair of men. Rather did God embrace His hopes of man more tenderly and provided for their realization in giving Himself in the Babe of Bethlehem that all might know that He is always near at hand and knows well our every need. It was for this reason that Isaiah called Him Immanuel—God with us. And the remembrance that in Jesus Christ God is ever with us should make our every experience of darkness an occasion for our Star of Hope to shine more brightly.

The Message

Are the greetings on our Christmas cards always in keeping with the spirit and intent of Christmas? Do we mean what God meant in His message to earth that first Christmas?

The message to earth that first Christmas was, "Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10,11). Thus, the message of the angel was a message of joy. And what joy can be compared with that which fills a heart that no longer has to endure the pain and suffering of unpardoned sin!

For ages man had sought the mystical way by which the heart might feel its oneness with eternity and wholeness within. He had made the weary round of form and ceremony until the smoke of the sacrifices only darkened the skies and brought him no nearer to the vision glorious. He had spent himself in the ways of charitableness but found that all his goodliness could not set things right once again. These devices never would! As the Psalmist reminds us, "Against thee, thee only have I sinned and done this evil in thy sight" (Psalm 51:4), even though another human had suffered through his waywardness. Thus, forgiveness must be found first at the throne of God. And the only way in which a man can obtain such mercy is by sensing his unworthiness to receive it and throw himself upon the love of God which is so wondrously revealed in the child of Bethlehem. He came to take away the sin of the world, which is why he is called Jesus, the Saviour.

Oh, how joyful should our hearts be in the assurance of forgiveness that we can receive at the hand of God because of Bethlehem's Babe. It matters not how many they be, how terrible they are. God has revealed the greatness of His love and His willingness to remove them from us as far as the east is from the west in coming among us as a little child.

The Songs

Are the songs we sing and play at Christmas a fitting reflection of the truth of Christmas? Consider such songs as *Jingle Bells* and *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus,* to mention but two.

The song of the angels was "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). The song of the heavenly host is a song of promise, the promise of peace. How our world yearns to sing that song and hear its melody issuing forth from every mouth. Two thousand years have passed since earth first heard that glorious song of old, and more times than one cares to remember has it been lost in the din and tumult of battle. But like all the promises of God, this too can find its happy fulfillment if man earnestly desires it. God's willingness that this should be the condition of mankind He has made abundantly clear in the giving of Him who is the Prince of Peace.

But it will take more than mere wish on our part that this should be. The only condition on which the song of the heavenly host can be translated into a living reality is by heeding its opening words, "Glory to God in the highest." By this is meant that every individual must live every moment of life deeply conscious of his dependence upon God. When one senses with conviction that everything he has comes from God and is to be used as a trust in His ways rather than to satisfy self and its whims, then peace has found fertile ground in which to grow. When one is constantly aware of the fact that God will hold him accountable for every deed done in the flesh, then will one examine his heart before acting and peace will receive the care and nurture it requires to develop and mature. And that there need never be a question of doubt in your heart and mind as to what to do in a given situation, only by cradling the Christ child in your heart and allowing Him to grow and develop therein will that wisdom and spirit be present to guide you in peaceable ways. Peace is as difficult and simple as that.

Questions for Discussion

1. How does motive affect such customs as giving gifts, sending cards, attending church services, and entertaining at this season of the year?
2. What should be the feeling in our hearts as we go about preparing for Christmas and putting our plans into action?
3. How can we perpetuate the spirit of Christmas throughout the whole year?

Conclusion

Whether hope, joy, and peace, the real blessings and gifts of Christmas, will be yours depends on whether you emphasize in daily life the Christ of Christmas or the mammon of materialism, which has all but eclipsed the sacredness of the day and the season. Are not the gifts which God has bestowed in the Christ child more to be desired than those which man can give?

Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 14 God Became Man John 1:6-18
T. Dec. 15 A Birth Announcement Luke 1:26-38
W. Dec. 16 Anxiously Waiting Luke 1:46-56
T. Dec. 17 A Birth Which Divides the Years Luke 2:1-7
F. Dec. 18 God's Concern for the Common Man Luke 2:8-20
S. Dec. 19 The King Is Honored Matthew 2:1-12
Sun. Dec. 20—Topic: Silent Night vs. Jingle Bells Luke 2:1-20
(Christmas Sunday)

Comments by Dr. Samuel S. Haas, professor of Hebrew and Old Testament studies at Bloomfield College and Seminary, Bloomfield, New Jersey

Good Looking

Philippians 3:7-14

(New Year's Sunday)

Purpose

To discover the best way to greet the New Year so that it may become the opportunity to grow more and more into that fulness of the stature of a child of God that He intended each to be.

Program Promotion

BY POSTERS: A striking poster can be made by pasting on a paper an advertisement for some beauty preparation and opposite it a picture of the Bible. Under these pictures print the words: Which of these will make you truly "Good Looking"? Then, beneath these words print: *Come to our Christian Endeavor meeting on (Date), (Hour), (Place) and find out for yourself.*

BY INVITATION: Buy a card appropriate for New Year's Day with the inside blank. Inside write a personal invitation to your meeting with the necessary information. Perhaps some catchy message in this form would be interest arousing: *Do you want to be "good-looking"? If so, may we invite you to attend our Christian Endeavor gathering on (Date), (Time), (Place). We would be most happy to welcome you.*

BY PERSONAL CONTACT: Let each member select one person who does not attend the meetings and make a date with that one to go to the meeting together.

Guidance for Leader

This meeting could be conducted in the form of a bull session. Select three or four members to participate in it. The leader could introduce the subject by pointing out the various attitudes people adopt toward the coming New Year and then point out what Paul's viewpoint was. Then he could ask each of the others to present what he or she thought would be a good thing to forget before entering the New Year.

For the follow-up activity, be sure to have sheets of writing paper and envelopes sufficient for the number present so that each may write a letter to himself or herself. Let this letter be written at the conclusion of the period of quiet meditation.

Leader's Talk

As the New Year approaches, we can think of ourselves as standing on the threshold of an entrance way. Soon we shall pass through a door which will admit us into rooms never visited before.

The manner in which we face this experience will be indicative of our outlook on life. Shall we celebrate the occasion with frenzied gaiety—the manner of those who are desperately trying to escape the realities of life? Shall we greet the occasion resigned to the fact that what is going to happen will happen and there is nothing that we can do to alter it? Or shall we welcome the New Year in the spirit of quiet thoughtfulness and prayer, realizing that it will be another opportunity to grow in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man?

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service

Call to Worship: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Trust in Him at all times. Pour out your heart before Him. O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come.

Invocation

Hymn: *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Responsive Reading: Selection 13 in *Christian Endeavor Songs* (Matthew 25:34-40)

Gloria Patri

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:7-14

Sentence Prayers

Hymn: *Living for Jesus*

Offertory

Topic Discussion

Period of Quiet for Meditation

Writing of Letters

Reciting of Christian Endeavor Pledge

Hymn: *Lead On, O King Eternal*

Benediction

LOOK

Talks on the Topic

The Choice

Will the New Year be a challenge to high adventure with the resolve to leave the "low-vaulted past "and enter upon a new era of attainment? Or will we enter the New Year dragging behind us all the blunders and follies and mistakes of the past?

The apostle Paul faced a turning point in his life at a time of spiritual stock taking such as we experience on the threshold of a New Year. What he did at such a time can be of genuine help to us. He wrote, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13,14).

The apostle never allowed himself to be impeded or fettered by the past. Paul overcame the despotism of the past by cutting loose from it by means of confession and experiencing the mercy of God.

What Shall We Forget?

One thing we can do in the New Year is to forget the failures of the past. There is not one of us who has not failed to realize some goal or goals we have set before us. To dwell on such failures encourages the spirit of defeatism. It practically guarantees defeat before the battle is really begun. That is why Paul said, "Forgetting those things which are behind . . . I press on."

The only way to forget the failures of the past is by seeking God's forgiveness, and, having experienced this, we can truly forgive ourselves and enter the New Year as free men and women.

I will not make of circumstances my
jailer and my fate,
I will step forth to victory,
through every failure's gate.

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Again, we would do well to forget the resentments which belong to the past. So often it is heard or said, "Revenge is sweet." If so, its sweetness is short-lived. It soon turns into the bitterness of gall. John Milton put this truth into these words,

Revenge, at first thought sweet,
Bitter ere long back on itself recoils.

There is always a terrible backwash to every act of revenge. Usually, the end result of revenge is the destruction of what is finest within us rather than that which is without us.

The world desperately needs more understanding, more sympathy, more kindness. What a transformation comes over us when we put ourselves in the other person's place and try to feel and think as he or she feels and thinks. Then it becomes easier for us to follow the injunction of Paul, "Avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vegeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (Romans 12:19-21).

Further, it would be well for us who are about to enter a New Year to forget our accomplishments. To dwell upon the good one has managed to do brings about a feeling of contentment that can easily develop into self-satisfaction. Self-satisfaction is the first step in the direction of going into a decline. One who believes that he has attained that level of goodness beyond which it is unnecessary to go robs himself of the driving power that alone can send him upward to heights of accomplishment that the world sorely needs and the soul yearns to experience.

Again, taking undue pleasure in our attainments of the past is most often the source of pride. If there is one luxury which man cannot afford it is pride. Pride makes one reckless. Caution is thrown to the winds, thereby inviting sorrows that a more sober approach could have avoided. *(See in this connection what Paul advised in I Corinthians 10:12,13.)* If ever one had reason to be proud and contented with his accomplishments, that person was Paul. *(See Philippians 3:3-11.)* Yet what was his attitude? *(See the verses following, 12-14.)*

It is only by allowing our past goodness to act as a challenge, not a couch, that we can attain greater heights of goodness than ever before reached and approach more nearly to that Christlikeness which each of us is capable of and destined for, if we are sincere in our profession of faith in and love of God.

Questions for Discussion

1. What devices do people use very often in these days to help them forget?
2. Are they effective?
3. What way does the Bible encourage us to use in order to forget the past? (See Psalm 32.)

Conclusion

A glorious New Year will be ours if, like Paul, we can forget our failures, our hates, our past goodness and, like him, press on to those better things which are set before us in Christ Jesus. Under the inspiration of Christ abilities thus far little used, even unused, will come to the fore, making possible what before we felt was impossible for us. Friendship and inner peace of which before we deprived ourselves through ill will now will enrich our lives. Joy in making others happy and our own lives more useful will fill our hearts to overflowing. To face the New Year in this fashion would be "good looking" indeed.

Follow-up Activities

Let each person present write himself a letter. This letter should contain resolutions to be followed in the coming year which will enable that one to grow more fully into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Then this letter should be placed in an envelope, sealed, and addressed to oneself. Give these letters to the counselor so that he or she may mail them back after a lapse of three months. This will act as a reminder of what one resolved to do to live the better life as well as provide an opportunity to check and see if these resolves are still being carried out.

Illustration

A group of American businessmen went up North on a fishing trip. Having made a good catch on a particular day's outing, they started for the shore. Someone suggested that they should have a boat race home. Strangely enough, the most powerful oarsman in the group was left sadly in the rear. Later, he discovered to his dismay that he had not taken in the anchor. He had actually dragged it for half a mile. Is this the way that you will go into the New Year, dragging the dead weight of the past?

* * * * *

One of the most famous slaves of tobacco was Sigmund Freud, "father of psychiatry." When Dr. Wilhelm Fleiss diagnosed Freud's irregular heartbeat to be the result of his heavy cigar smoking, and ordered him to stop, the psychiatrist tried to—and failed. He did stop smoking for a time, but soon felt so miserable that he resumed the habit... Throughout his life, Dr. Freud struggled to break the chains of the cigar habit and found himself too weak, time after time. He contracted cancer of the jaw and endured 35 operations, finally losing his whole lower jaw. Again and again he was warned by other physicians that smoking was endangering his health and life, and again and again Dr. Freud tried to stop. But each time the tobacco habit triumphed, and at last Freud died of cancer.

S. I. McMillen, M.D., in CANCER BY THE CARTON (Fleming H. Revell Company)

* * * * *

This illustrates how difficult it is to overcome a habit once it has become established. However, Jesus Christ provides the strength to overcome any sinful habit which should be discarded! As we consider our flaws at the end of the year, let us look to Jesus for the power to get rid of them in 1965!

* * * * *

Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 21 In Retrospect Psalm 103
T. Dec. 22 The Power of Recall Nehemiah 9:6-24
W. Dec. 23 Looking Forward Expectantly Micah 5:8-15
T. Dec. 24 Christ Views the Future Matthew 25:1-13
F. Dec. 25 In Preparation for the Future John 14:1-15
S. Dec. 26 John's Glimpse into the Future Revelation 21:1-8
Sun. Dec. 27—Topic: Good Looking Philippians 3:7-14 (New Year's Sunday)

Comments by Dr. Samuel S. Haas, professor of Hebrew and Old Testament studies at Bloomfield College and Seminary, Bloomfield, New Jersey

Hymns listed in program outlines in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD have been selected from the new CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SONGS. This book, with an attractive orange and black krome-kote cover, contains 138 songs and hymns and 20 responsive Scripture readings for youth meetings. Available from International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Price: 60c each, $6 per dozen, $48 per hundred.

Topics and Helps

FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND ADULTS

Topic Summaries for December

Prepared by the Adult Work Committee

The Adult Work Committee which prepared these summaries included Dr. Earle W. Gates, chairman; Rev. Walter C. Schaeffer, Wanna Sell, and Mrs. Roger D. Vander Kolk.

Bible Study (three topics)

1. A Treasure House of Gold

Psalm 119:97-104; John 1:1-3

The Bible has its origin in the heart and will of God. God is the Author and inspired men were the writers. It is the product of the Spirit of God working in and through human expression. In this topic aim to: (1) rediscover the nature and importance of the Word of God; (2) see again the ultimate purpose of the revelation of God; (3) explain how the Bible becomes meaningful for life. The following selections should be assigned in advance of the meeting requesting that the participants read and give their comments: Deuteronomy 18:15-22; Nehemiah 8:8-12; Isaiah 1:18-20; Isaiah 9:6,7; Isaiah 41:9-11; Luke 24:36-48; John 3:7-17; Revelation 21:1-7.

2. Let's Study the Book

Acts 17:10-13; II Timothy 2:15,16

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. It bears its own witness as to its divine purpose. It is good literature. Some of the world's most interesting and touching narratives are found between its covers; military strategy and historical events are unequaled; it gives a comfort and assurance that no other book can give. One author has suggested as a safe "tranquilizer" the Twenty-Third or Ninety-First Psalm. Better tranquilizers than these have not yet been invented. Since the Bible is the Word of God, how should it be approached by the reader and student? What are some profitable ways in which to read the Bible? Is the Bible ever read with a wrong motive? Is there danger of worshiping the Book rather than Him who is revealed in it? Note John 5:38-40.

3. God's Word — My Strength

Psalm 18:1-7; Matthew 24:35

This divinely inspired book, of 66 separate books written by about 36 authors throughout 16 centuries, contains so much direction to Christian living and growth that certainly one should read it often. No other book bears the message of salvation or the methods and means of attaining a full life. The Old Testament, beginning with Genesis 3:15, draws us a rough sketch of our Lord and Saviour. Each book, prophet, priest, king, and scribe, adds a line here and there, so that when we conclude Malachi we have a picture of the one who is to come as our Redeemer. The New Testament then transforms this into a rich oil painting—complete in every detail. Discuss: How does the Bible strengthen one in his everyday living? What portions of the Scripture have been a strength to your life? Is there any value in children memorizing the Scriptures? How important is the Christian Endeavor Quiet Hour?

Is There Anything New?

Psalm 40:4,5

It is folly to assume that a new year with its opportunities will automatically absolve all of one's problems. Merely stating resolutions will not change behavior. A more realistic approach to self-improvement comes from evaluating the motives for daily actions. Consider the time spent for personal pleasure versus the time utilized in service for one's fellow men. Compare your motives, attitudes, and actions with the criteria defined in Philippians 4:8,9. Discuss: How do the past events affect plans for the new year? What are the advantages of setting goals for the new year? How many new activities did your group attempt last year? Why are the same events planned annually without evaluating their effectiveness?

"Search the Scriptures"

By Jay Sheffield, Editor of THE LOOKOUT

Light from the Word of God is essential when the clouded reasoning of men fails. Authority of the Word of God is necessary in a confused time when many voices are saying, "This is the way; walk in it!"

God has mercifully given us a book that is "able to make us wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." By diligent study of the Word we may learn what to believe, what to be, what to do, how to live, how to die, and what to expect after we die.

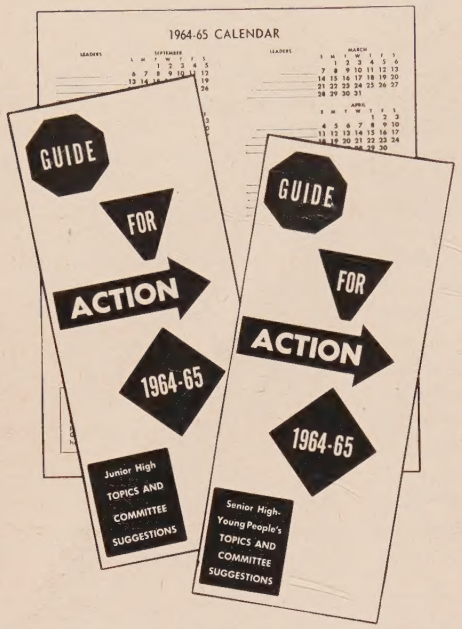
God expects us to use His Book in becoming acquainted with His character, and in gaining knowledge of His will. To know something of the marvelous way in which God has preserved His Word through the ages brings great inspiration. The providential care of the early manuscripts and the manner in which the Bible has come down to us are demonstrations of God's design for His Word. Knowing these facts about the Bible, however, contributes only partially to an understanding of it.

Fundamental to any first-hand knowledge of the Bible is the reading of the Book itself, and all the books in the world can not be substituted for it. It is absolutely essential that those who endeavor to follow Christ—Christian Endeavorers—profess more than an average understanding of and appreciation for the holy Scriptures. Their thoughts must go deeper and their search must be greater with regard to Bible study than are those thoughts that go with reading the morning paper.

God has spoken. He has spoken through His Son Jesus Christ. He has guided men in the recording of the words He has spoken and the plan He has given to men. In that revelation, the careful student, if his inner eye of faith has been opened, can see on every page the love of God and the saving power of Jesus Christ. It is our daily companion and infallible guide. In dark hours of sorrow, it comforts our hearts. In days of joy, it puts songs of praise upon our lips. It unrolls the magnificent panorama of the past and it draws aside the veil of the unknown and gives us a glimpse into a boundless eternity.

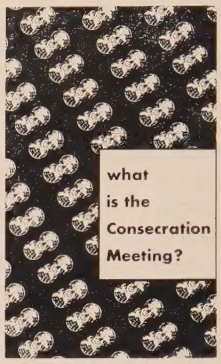
If we would transcend the bounds of human knowledge and come to know God himself, it is to the Bible, and to the Bible alone, that we must go for help.

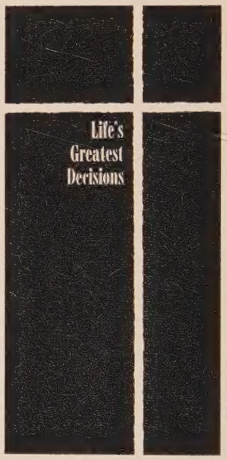
FOR A BETTER SOCIETY PROGRAM
USE THESE HELPS



ALL COMMITTEES ACTIVE

The Guide for ACTION 1964-65 folders are full of suggestions for each of the five basic committees, plus the executive committee—a page for each month, September 1964 through August 1965. These are related to the topics, which are also listed. Available in two editions—Junior High (Intermediate) for 7th through 9th graders, Senior High-Young People's for those in the 10th through 12th grades and out of school. 25c each.





REGULAR CONSECRATION MEETINGS

The consecration meeting is an important part of the Christian Endeavor program. This brand new folder, just released, has been prepared by Rev. Arno Pagel, president of the German Christian Endeavor Union. It contains the background for this meeting (which was called by the founder, Dr. Francis E. Clark, the "crowning meeting") and gives suggestions for various types of services. 35c a dozen, $2.50 per hundred.

OPPORTUNITY FOR DECISIONS

The Christian Endeavor program offers many challenges to youth to make decisions—for Christ, to observe the Quiet Hour, to become a member of the Tenth Legion, to become a Lifework Recruit, for witnessing, etc. This folder is excellent for distribution to those who are considering or have made new decisions for Christ and His work. 75c a dozen.

Carl F. Herrmann, Manager Publishing Department
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR
1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216

Please send me the following materials:

_____ Junior High Edition Guide for ACTION 1964-65 folders @ 25c each $_____

_____ Senior High-Young People's Edition Guide for ACTION 1964-65 folders @ 25c each _____

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